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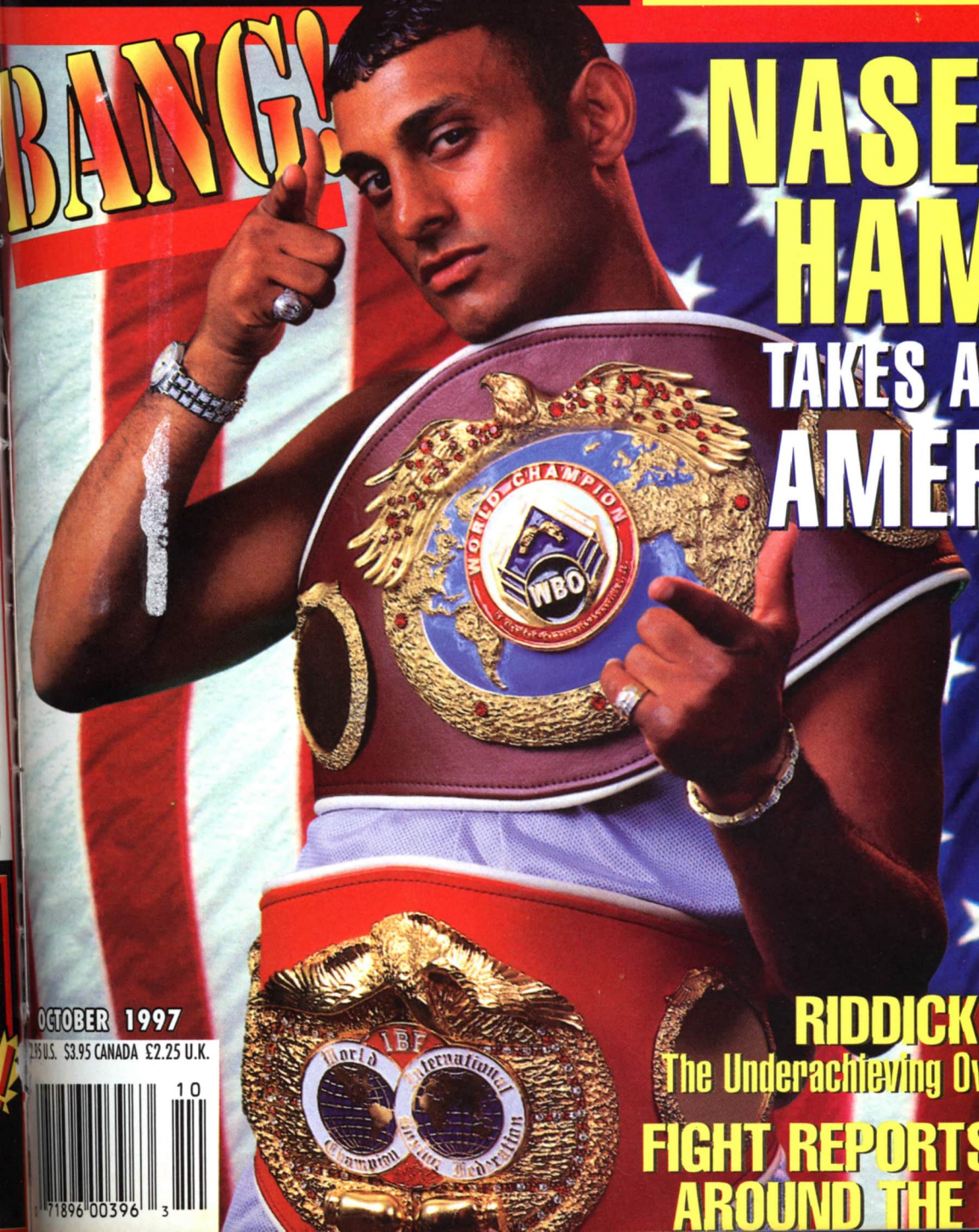

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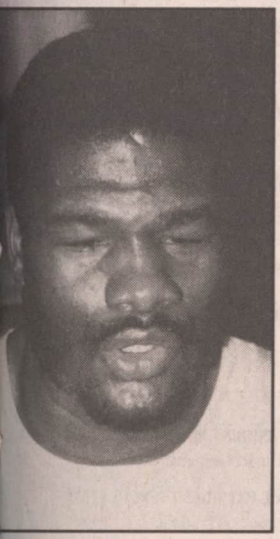

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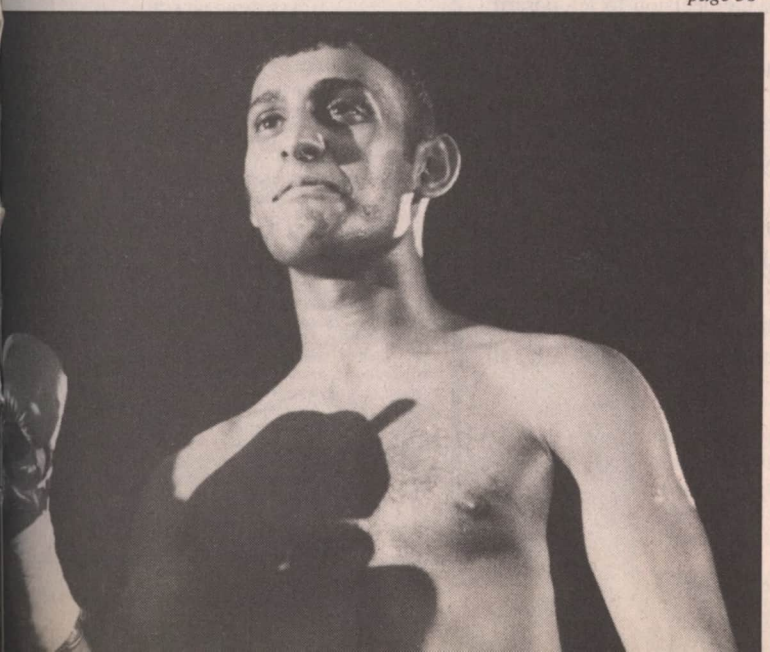

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RINGSIDE

Bankers do business with bankers. Boxing writers do business with boxers. Bankers make more money. I'd rather be a boxing writer. Here are some of the reasons why.

On a Saturday night in late-May, I sat ringside and watched a former drug addict beat up a superstar-to-be. Two days later, I heard about another former druggie who's rumored to be back on the stuff. That same day, a broken-hearted manager told me about a former world champion who's in trouble for having assaulted his girlfriend. Then there's the world-class heavyweight who's reportedly been running the streets, but not to do roadwork.

The AMA wants to ban boxing. If you get rid of the drugs, booze, and babes, the fighters will be fine—but the writers will be useless.

One day at the office, I overheard my colleague, Managing Editor Nigel Collins, interviewing a contender who had just won a big fight. One hour later, Collins was back on the phone. Turns out the first conversation had been with the fighter's brother, who had posed as the fighter "because the guy from the magazine said he was on deadline, and I wanted to save him time." Wouldn't you know it? The brother gave a better interview than the fighter.

One night last week, a contender called me to say a promoter had stiffed him of his five-figure purse for a recent pay-per-view fight. I felt so bad, I almost wrote the guy a check. Then I remembered what my job pays. A few days later, another fighter called Collins to tell us he had sued his promoter—and won his independence. After congratulating the fighter, Collins asked him if he had any brothers. You can never be too careful.

***

As we went to press, HBO was planning to televise Oscar De La Hoya-David Kamau without Larry Merchant. The analyst's one-fight vacation was the result of the controversy surrounding his comments regarding the mariachi band that accompanied De La Hoya's ring walk for his TVKO-televised battle against Pernell Whitaker. (TVKO is HBO's pay-per-view arm.)

According to HBO Sports President Seth Abraham, the decision to temporarily remove Merchant was not punitive. "I didn't want Larry Merchant to be the story," he said, alluding to the fact that De La Hoya-Kamau was to take place in San Antonio, which has a large Mexican-American community.

Having attended De La Hoya-Whitaker, I didn't hear Merchant on TV. I did, however, read the text of his comments in the papers. Clearly, he was being critical not of Mexican music or culture, but rather of promoter Bob Arum, whom he accused of "using music to get Mexican fans—not Mexican-Americans—but Mexican fans, to support De La Hoya." That the comments caused such a stir is indicative of how America has gone overboard on political correctness.

Perhaps I have no right to tell Mexican and Mexican-American fans not to have been insulted. But those in boxing who condemned Merchant are hypocrites. After all, the fight game has been exploiting race and ethnicity for 100 years.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 76, No. 10 October 1997

The RING

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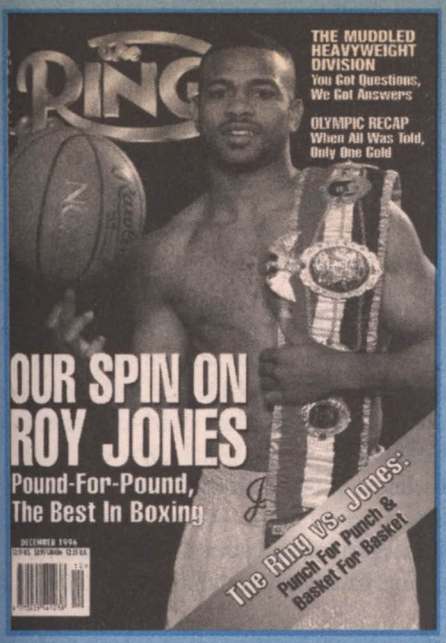

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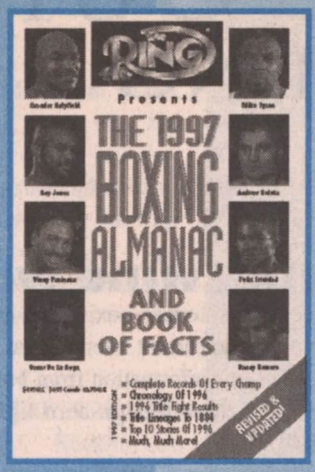

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

IT'S A WIDE, WIDE WORLD

Just how much does the American boxing fan really know of the international scene? And why don't we embrace some of the current international stars as we did in the '70s and '80s? Let's face the facts: We get much of our information from boxing magazines, and since 1990, "The Bible Of Boxing" has featured only three foreign-born fighters on its cover (Lennox Lewis, Julio Cesar Chavez, and Nigel Benn).

Could it be that foreign-born fighters have not earned a spot on the cover? I don't think so. Instead of featuring an American heavyweight almost every month, why not try Kostya Tszyu, Naseem Hamed, Steve Collins, Orzubek Nazarov, Felix Trinidad, or Ike Quartey? They've done more than enough to earn it.

I understand that economics plays a large part in your monthly decision. But ultimately, it's the boxing public that suffers. If such fighters were featured more prominently, maybe we'd be getting Oscar De La Hoya-Quartey instead of De La Hoya-Hector Camacho.

Let's start giving credit where credit is due and featuring these deserving fighters in your otherwise excellent magazine.

MARTY MULCAHEY
Colorado Springs, CO

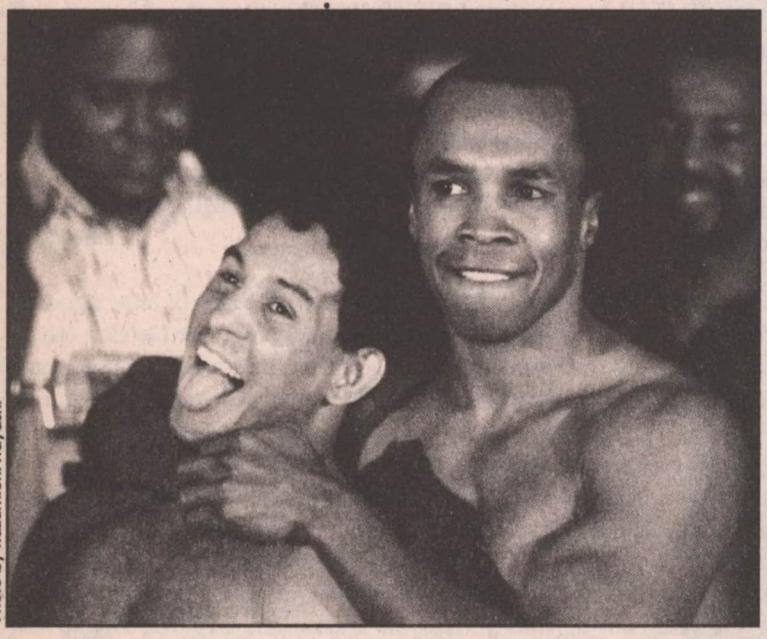

Photo by Kazumichi Hayashi

Seniors Tour posterboys: This prefight horseplay was the closest Sugar Ray Leonard came to hurting Hector Camacho. Despite having suffered a humiliating knockout to "The Macho Man" in March, Leonard plans to fight on.

THE NOT-SO-GOLDEN OLDIES

A Seniors Tour must be created.

I can't wait to see what excuse Ray Leonard will employ when he gets beat by another 40-year-old middleweight.

Let's bring back the Spinks brothers, Marvin Hagler, Gerry Cooney, and Aaron Pryor.

Perhaps the paying public will be able to decide whether it wants to see Larry Holmes-George Foreman, Roberto Duran-Leonard IV, or Alexis Arguello-Carlos Palomino.

Given the slow-motion knockdowns, I can just see the theme of the tour: "I've fallen down and I can't get up!"

KURTIS WOLF
Glendale, AZ

THE PRINCE WILL BE KING

At last! In your June issue, there was some credit given to Prince Naseem Hamed, who indeed proved he was for real. Actually, Hamed showed this at age 19, when he beat Vincenzo Belcastro for European bantamweight honors. In your two-part feature on unifying boxing's titles, your computer picked Tom Johnson over Hamed. The Prince proved you wrong in spectacular fashion.

Hamed's options are limitless due to an ability to move from 122 pounds to as high as 135. I would suggest that only a lack of height stops Naz from pushing toward a superfight with "The Golden Boy," Oscar De La Hoya. Meanwhile, he should clean up the featherweights (Luisito

Espinosa and Wilfredo Vazquez), then finish Azumah Nelson's career and teach Arturo Gatti a lesson.

MALCOLM MAXWELL
Glasgow, Scotland

THE FIGHT THAT NEVER WAS

With all due respect to Roy Jones, Gerald McClellan would have knocked him out. This was made apparent to me after the first fight between Jones and Montell Griffin. Mr. Jones just cannot handle pressure, and who was more of a pressure fighter than McClellan? Not only did McClellan pressure his victims, but with the exception of Nigel Benn, he never let them into the fight.

Jones has great skills, but he freezes when pressed, and that would have proved to be a dangerous mistake against the power of the G-Man.

We still remember you, Gerald.

PATRICK BRAZIL
Rocklin, CA

A LIGHTWEIGHT TO FEAR

A few years ago, WBA lightweight champion Orzubek Nazarov came to Maine and totally destroyed the state's greatest fighter, Joey Gamache, in less than two rounds. Ever since, I've wanted to see Nazarov fight again. He recently kayoed Leavander Johnson in Florida, but the bout wasn't televised. The problem with this guy is that he rarely fights. That's because he has too much power and too good a chin for anyone at his weight. I think everyone is ducking him.

I'd love to see Nazarov rise in weight and take on Oscar De La Hoya, who didn't fight him when "The Golden Boy" campaigned at 135 pounds. Now there's a pay-per-view fight worth paying for!

Let's see if Oscar can really take a punch.

DAN EDMONDSON
Augusta, ME

FRAZIER VS. HOLMES

Regarding one of your "Battle Of The Legends" (November 1996) that continues to draw mail: Joe Frazier defeat Larry Holmes? Yeah, right. Frazier was strictly a brawler who clearly lacked technical skills. He possessed a great left hook and a ton of heart, but little else. And if Frazier took that great of a punch, then how did Oscar Bonavena manage to floor him twice? And who did Frazier ever beat, anyway? He got famous when he decisioned a rusty Muhammad Ali, but Frazier was decisively beaten two of the three times they fought.

Holmes was a 6'3", 220-pound heavyweight with an 81-inch reach. With distance between them, Frazier wouldn't be able to reach Holmes. Holmes was a master boxer who owned an all-time jab and a powerful right cross and uppercut. A short, crouching fighter like Frazier would have been made to order for him.

One other observation that eluded your panelists: Frazier didn't have to tangle with a bunch of 6'3", 220-pound punchers like Earnie Shavers, Renaldo Snipes, Bonecrusher Smith, Tim Witherspoon, and Ken Norton, as Holmes did a decade later. Ali always swore that Shavers hit harder than anyone, and Holmes took Shavers' best punch and came back to stop him. On the other hand, when Frazier finally met a puncher, George Foreman put on an exhibition of power Babe Ruth and Henry Aaron would have been proud of.

ERNIE JONES
Dayton, OH ■

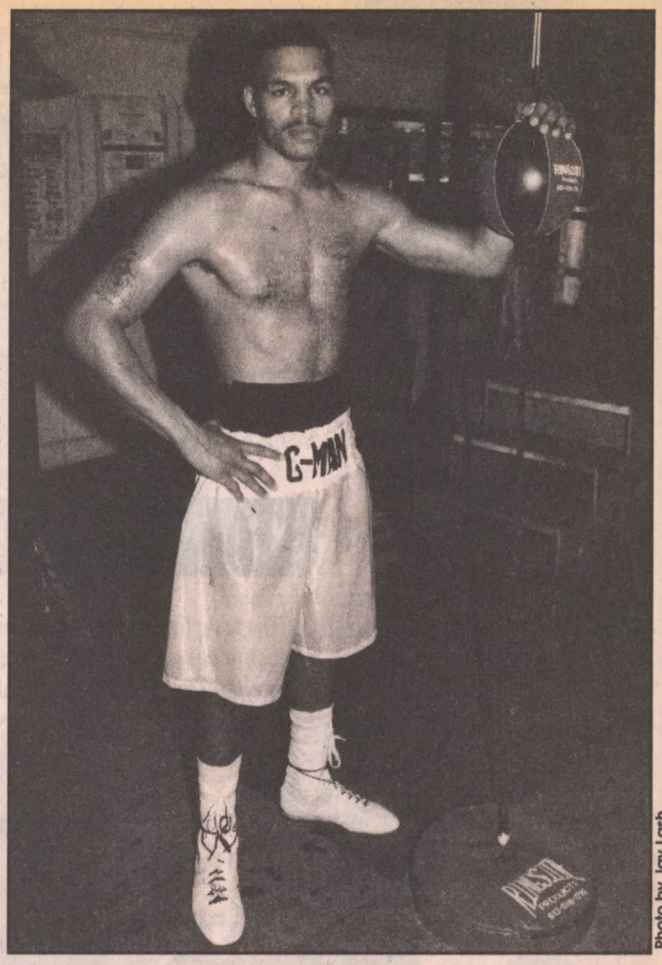

Photo by Jay Lash

Had his career not been prematurely ended by injuries suffered in his loss to Nigel Benn, might powerpuncher Gerald McClellan be posing a serious threat to pound-for-pound entrant Roy Jones?

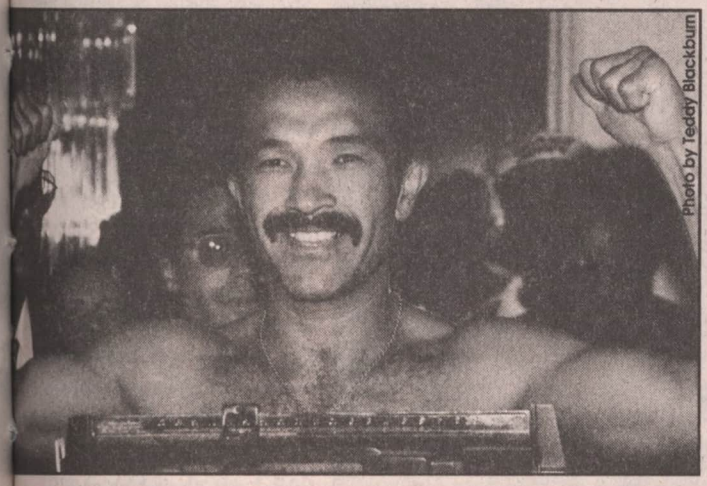

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Don't let the smile fool you: WBA lightweight champion Orzubek Nazarov has the kind of punch that dissuades contenders from taking him on. Nazarov has scored impressive kayos of Joey Gamache and Leavander Johnson.

ROUND ONE

NO BUTTS ABOUT IT

The traveling road show of heavyweight Nikolay Valouev (pronounced Val-loo-yev), which has already made stops in his native Russia, Germany, England, Australia, and now the USA, is gaining steam. No matter where Valouev has fought, ringsiders have had the same reaction: "Do you believe how *big* that guy is?"

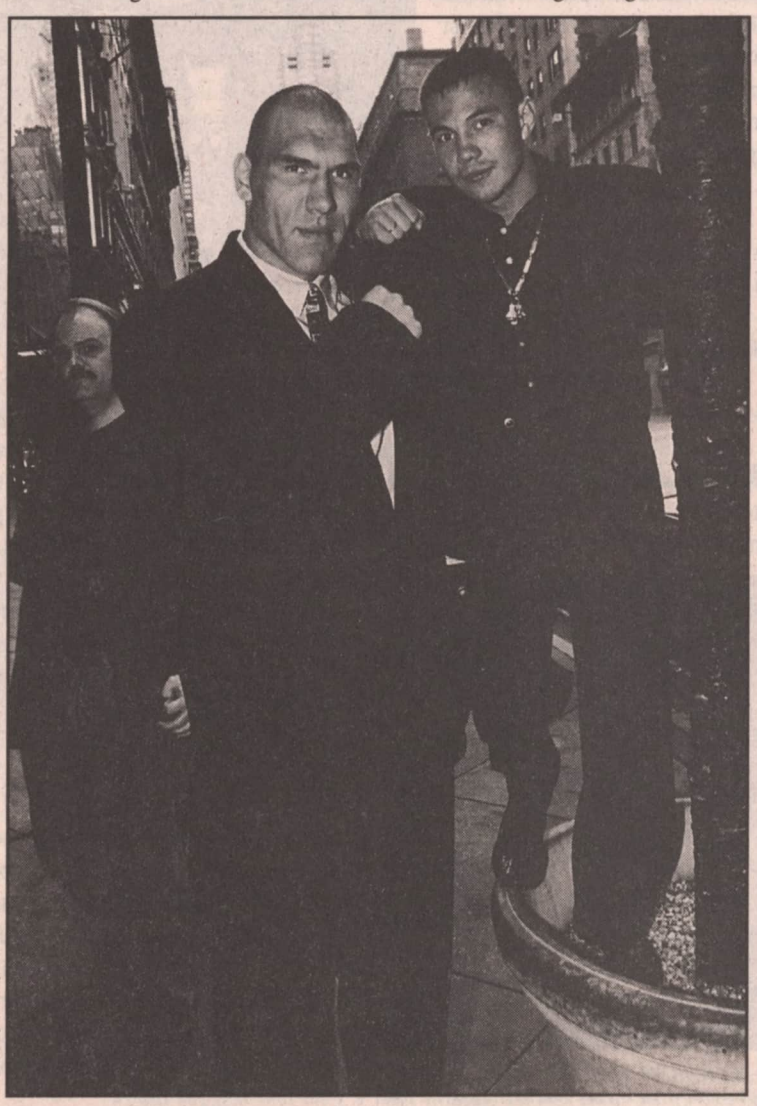

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Valouev and stablemate Kostya Tszyu

For the record, the 316-pound Valouev is 7'2" and flaunts an 84-inch reach. After the heavyweight advanced to 8-0 (7) by stopping 6'1½" Terrell Nelson on cuts underneath Vince Phillips-Kostya Tszyu in May, Don Majeski, Valouev's American agent, quipped, "At least they can't accuse him of having butted the guy."

The 23-year-old Valouev, who is managed by Vlad Wharton and co-trained by Johnny Lewis and Oleg Shalaev, started boxing at the advanced age of 20. He went 12-3 as an amateur, and in 1994 competed in the Goodwill Games. "We will take it slow," said Wharton.

Judging by the Nelson fight, that speed suits Valouev well. While he's well-proportioned and seems to understand that he needs to move his feet to create punching room, the giant operates in slow motion. Still, we recommend watching him—if you don't mind risking a stiff neck.

–Steve Farhood

THE WORLD MEDICAL CONGRESS

From April 30 to May 4, more than 250 doctors from 86 nations participated in the WBC's World Medical Congress on the island nation of Aruba.

Presentations were given by leading experts on subjects such as neurology, ophthalmology, dietetics, performance-enhancing drugs, and cardiology. The attendees included representatives of local boxing commissions and governing boards, as well as members of national medical associations and professional sports teams and upper echelon residents at some of the most prestigious hospitals and universities in the world.

Sulaiman: Committed to ring safety

"There is no question that this is the best medical seminar, in terms of boxing, that I've seen since my involvement in boxing," said Dr. Flip Homansky, the chairman of the Medical Advisory Board of the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

There were also several prominent non-doctors in attendance. WBC strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez and three-division champion Roy Jones spoke of their concerns, as did referees Arthur Mercante and Richard Steele and Hall of Fame trainer Emanuel Steward.

After each morning and afternoon presentation, there were question-and-answer periods. And at the end of each day, six discussion groups covered such subjects as chronic concussive injury, pre-participation physical criteria for exclusion, performance-enhancing drugs, eye injury, acute head injury, and ringside care.

"It is now up to the local boxing commissions to investigate the recommendations and adopt as many as possible," said WBC President Jose Sulaiman, who organized the congress. Sulaiman said the WBC plans to forward the report from the panel to all state, provincial, and national boxing commissions. "We want to lead boxing into the 21st century with safety as the top priority," he said.

–Ed Maloney

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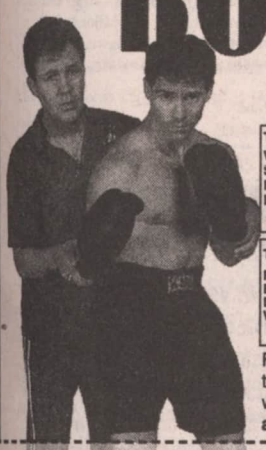

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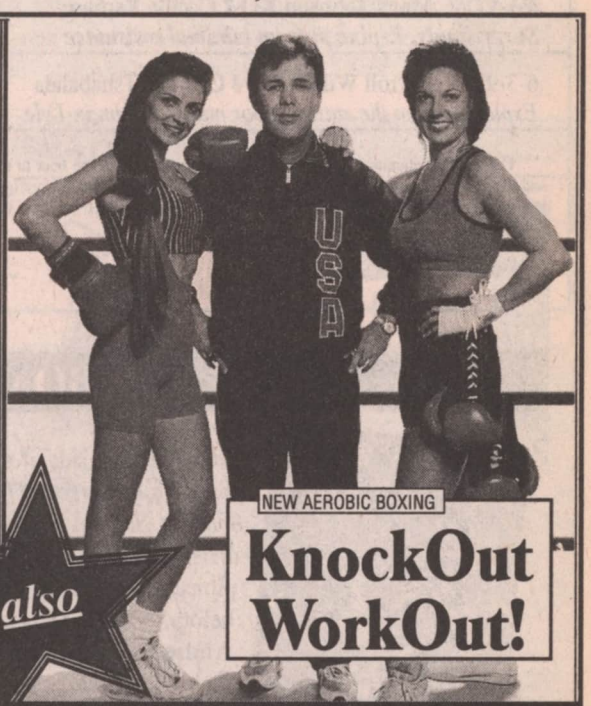

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TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
5-12-97	Jesse Magana W 10 Al Kotey	Prime	jf	B-	B+	B
Nothing easy for ever-aggressive Magana						
5-13-97	Buster Douglas W Disq. 1 Louis Monaco	USA	h	C+	C	D
Kayoed by punch after bell, Big Bus decides to stay on stool						
5-16-97	**Phillip Holiday W 12 Pete Taliaferro**	**ESPN2**	**IBF l**	**A-**	**C-**	**B+**
Who woulda thunk it? One knockdown each, and close all the way						
5-18-97	Oba Carr W 10 Rocky Balboa	ESPN2	w	B-	B+	C
Usually dangerous, Balboa is passive all the way						
5-20-97	Maurice Harris KO 7 Jimmy Thunder	USA	h	C+	B-	A-
Among the most spectacular knockouts you'll see						
5-24-97	David Reid KO 6 Robert Koon	Fox Sports	jm	B-	B-	C-
Koon game, but never really threatens						
5-27-97	Charles Murray W 10 Israel Cardona	ESPN2	jw	B	B+	A-
Non-stop action all the way; toss a coin to determine winner						
5-31-97	Jesse Ferguson KO 9 Samson Po'uha	HBO	h	C+	B	B+
You knew it was gonna be either a stinker or a brawl						
5-31-97	**Vince Phillips KO 10 Kostya Tszyu**	**HBO**	**IBF jw**	**A**	**B+**	**A-**
Faced with last chance, Phillips exposes Tszyu						
6-1-97	**Mark Johnson KO 2 Cecilio Espino**	**CBS**	**IBF fl**	**A**	**B+**	**C**
Surprisingly, Espino puts up minimal resistance						
6-3-97	Darroll Wilson KO 4 Courage Tshabalala	USA	h	B-	B+	A
Explosive from the start; a poor man's Foreman-Lyle						

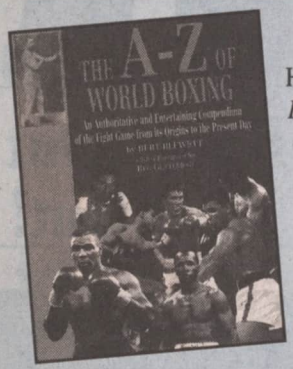
Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



On the other side of the pond, Harry Mullan wrote *The Great Book Of Boxing*, a division-by-division review of world champions. On our side, and years before, Nat Fleischer and Sam Andre did the same with *A Pictorial History Of Boxing*. Four years ago, I chipped in with a year-by-year look, *The Ring: Boxing, The 20th Century*. Clearly, the last thing the boxing bookshelf needed was another volume of history formatted in such a manner.

To his credit, South Africa's Bert Blewett has penned a most original tome, *The A-Z Of World Boxing* (439 pages, Robson Books Ltd., £22.95). While Blewett has managed to cover much of boxing's history and many of its great champions, the illustrated book is a compendium of alphabetized subjects ranging from Art and Drugs to Managers and Weigh-Ins. It is largely anecdotal and marvelously researched, and even the most learned of boxing historians are sure to find something that leaves them whispering, "I didn't know that."

The A-Z Of World Boxing isn't the kind of book to reach for if you're trying to find out who reigned as middleweight champion in 1913. But open up any page and you're sure to be entertained.

No one can say Bert blew it.

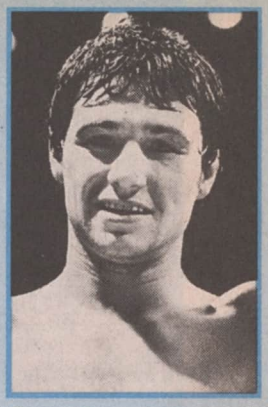
–Steve Farhood

THE FIVE MARV ALBERT-LIKE SCANDALS THAT ARE WAITING TO HAPPEN

If you agree with O'Grady's scoring ...

5. Showtime's Dr. Ferdie Pacheco bites a round-card girl on the ankle, then volunteers to treat the wound after the show.
4. Seconds after the final bell of a main event at the Blue Horizon, an unnamed Pennsylvania boxing judge changes his scorecard upon hearing the USA Network's Sean O'Grady agrees with him.
3. At a Mexican restaurant in Las Vegas, HBO's Larry Merchant pays the maitre d' $100 to "kill that damn music, at least while I'm here."
2. Two nights after Hector Camacho fights on CBS, Gil Clancy is seen wearing "The Macho Man's" ring outfit while sipping a pink lady at a South Beach nightclub in Miami.
1. Jim Lampley sues HBO announcing teammate Harold Lederman for blowing out his left eardrum with one of his "Well, Jim ... " comments during an Oscar De La Hoya title defense in Las Vegas.

OUTSIDE THE ROPES


Sacco: Dead at age 41

John Horne, the co-manager of **Mike Tyson**, is suing boxing writer **Wally Matthews** and the *New York Post*, alleging the columnist defamed him "in his capacity as a professional boxing manager and as a member of Team Tyson." Horne is seeking $6-million. The suit is related to columns Matthews wrote after Tyson postponed a November 1995 bout against **Buster Mathis Jr.** because of a broken thumb ... Two months before his scheduled showdown vs. **Danny Romero**, junior bantamweight **Johnny Tapia** was arrested in California on a charge of being a felon in possession of a weapon. Guns registered to Tapia's wife, Teresa, were found in an apartment the Tapias own but don't occupy. According to the newsletter *Flash*, the San Bernardino (California) County Sheriff's Office said it was "unlikely to pursue the matter" ... Former WBA junior welterweight champion **Ubaldo Sacco**, 41, died of meningitis in his hometown of Mar del Plata, Argentina. Sacco, who had a history of drug and alcohol abuse, won the title in 1985, stopping **Gene Hatcher**. He was dethroned in his first defense by **Patrizio Oliva**. Sacco's career mark: 47-4-1 (23) ... Former heavyweight contender **Duane Bobick** suffered multiple breaks in both arms and damage to his skin, muscle, and blood vessels after an on-the-job accident at a paper mill in Little Falls, Minnesota. Bobick was slitting apart rolls on the paper machine winder when the knife he was using got caught and his arms were pulled into the machinery. He underwent surgery, and as we went to press was listed in critical condition.

THE PUNCHLINES

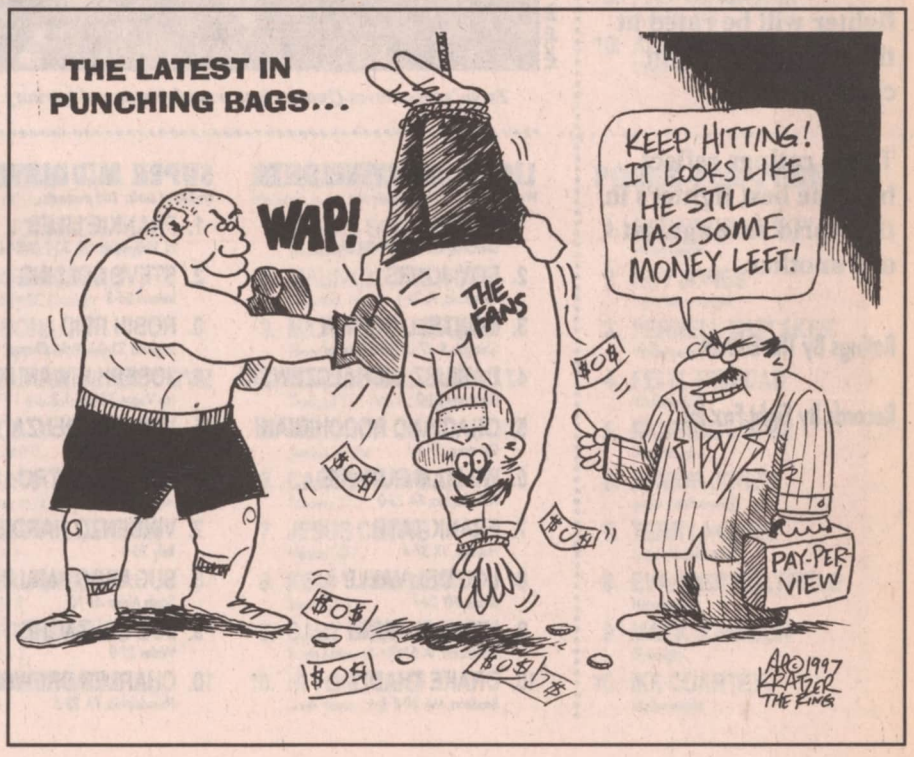
"It's one of my favorite movies! It's the Tyson story. What a great movie ... Every part of it is true—verbatim! I love it! I love it! I'm so happy. It's so good. So good!"

–Actress Robin Givens, sarcastically, on *Fox After Breakfast*, regarding the movie *Tyson*, which was to air that night.

"[It's like] a farmer who gets in the field, plants his seed, irrigates, fertilizes, and then come the trees and the fruit, and he puts it on the truck to take to market. Then he gets up next morning and somebody's gone with the truck."

–Promoter Butch Lewis, in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, after a U.S. District Court ruled that his contract with IBF middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins had expired.

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended June 4, 1997

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

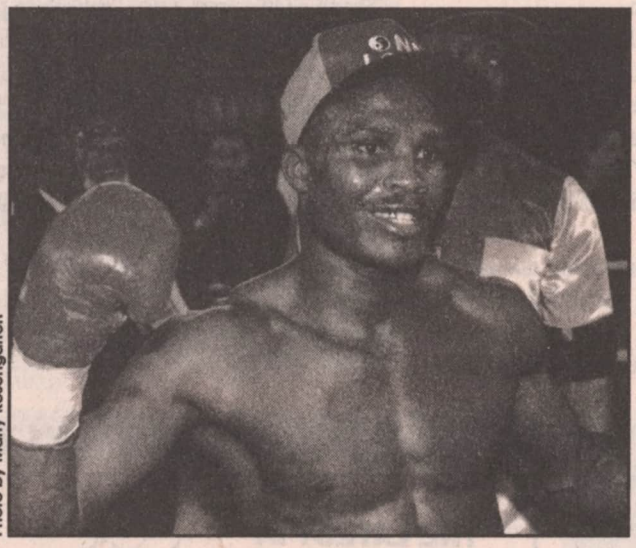


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Tszyu's loss moves Quartey into pound-for-pound territory

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA 33-3 (WBA Champ)
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England 30-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **MIKE TYSON** Southington, OH 45-2
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI 38-1 (IBF Champ)
5. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL 28-2
6. **RAY MERCER** West Orange, NJ 24-4-1
7. **HENRY AKINWANDE** England 31-0-1
8. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ 27-0
9. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA 45-5
10. **GEORGE FOREMAN** Marshall, TX 76-4

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA 29-4 (WBA Champ)
2. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY 26-3-2 (IBF Champ)
3. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina 21-1-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France 37-1
5. **ROBERT DANIELS** Miami, FL 36-3-1
6. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID 37-2
7. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany 18-0
8. **DAVID IZEQWIRE** Washington, D.C. 19-1
9. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany 16-1
10. **YOSUKEZAN NISHIJIMA** Japan 17-1

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND 43-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL 34-1
3. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL 27-0 (WBC Champ)
4. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany 33-0
5. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany 39-4-1
6. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA 23-0
7. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX 37-4
8. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY 24-1
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA 51-3
10. **DRAKE THADZI** Brockton, MA 29-8-1

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA 30-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland 35-3
3. **ROBIN REID** England 23-0-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **JOSEPH KIWANUKA** Las Vegas, NV 24-1-2
5. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI 41-6
6. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina 101-5-2
7. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy 30-6
8. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa 41-10
9. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales 21-0
10. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA 28-5

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA 31-2-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. 29-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. 24-0-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY 25-0-1
5. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA 29-1
6. **OTIS GRANT** Canada 28-1-1
7. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England 28-0
8. **BRIAN BARBOSA** Providence, RI 22-3
9. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France 24-1-1
10. **PAUL VADEN** San Diego, CA 27-1

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *45-6 (WBC Champ)*
2. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *35-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *56-3*
4. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *37-1*
5. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *32-2*
7. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *64-3*
8. **EMMETT LINTON**
   Tacoma, WA *23-2*
9. **GUILLERMO JONES**
   Panama *20-0*
10. **DAVIDE CIARLANTE**
    Italy *22-0*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *24-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *40-2-1*
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *31-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *34-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *38-3-1*
6. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *38-2*
7. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *24-4*
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *24-2-1*
9. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *66-2*
10. **ANDREI PESTRIAEV**
    Russia *20-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *36-3 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *29-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *97-2-1*
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-1*
5. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *18-1-1*
6. **RAY OLIVEIRA**
   New Bedford, MA *30-5*
7. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *53-5-1*
8. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Studio City, CA *48-3*
9. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *40-4*
10. **SOREN SONDERGAARD**
    Denmark *31-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *31-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *24-0 (WBA Champ)*
3. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *21-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *31-1*
5. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *23-0*
6. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Delran, NJ *23-1*
7. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-4-2*
8. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-6-2*
9. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *42-4*
10. **ARTUR GRIGORJAN**
    Uzbekistan *22-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *35-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *23-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *27-0*
5. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *34-0-1*
6. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *57-5-1*
7. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *44-3*
8. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
   Kazakhstan *30-3*
9. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *20-2-1*
10. **DJAMEL LIFA**
    France *23-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *41-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *45-3-1*
4. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *50-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
5. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *47-1-2*
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *20-1*
7. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *36-2*
8. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *40-2*
9. **ANGEL VASQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT *14-0*
10. **DERRICK GAINER**
    Pensacola, FL *19-4*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *43-2*
2. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *55-7-3 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *32-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *43-2*
5. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *26-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *20-1*
7. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *31-3-1*
8. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *26-0*
9. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico *21-0*
10. **ANGEL CHACON**
    Puerto Rico *23-1*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *21-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *36-1*
3. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASUK**
   Thailand *14-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *59-5-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *20-0*
6. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *36-3*
7. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *11-1*
8. **ROBBIE REGAN**
   Wales *17-2-3*
9. **PASTOR MAURIN**
   Argentina *34-0*
10. **ADAN VARGAS**
    Mexico *23-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *39-0-2*
2. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *30-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *35-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *20-3-1*
5. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *13-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
7. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-2*
8. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
9. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan *22-1-1*
10. **RATANACHAI SOR VORAPIN**
    Thailand *22-3*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *31-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *22-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *26-1 (Interim WBC Champ)*
5. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *44-7-3*
6. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   East St. Louis, IL *14-3*
7. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *26-1*
8. **JESPER JENSEN**
   Denmark *22-0*
9. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *32-4-3*
10. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
    Mexico *33-3*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *35-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia *16-0*
3. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *44-3*
4. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *17-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *49-5-4*
6. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *31-3*
7. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico *30-7*
8. **KEIJI YAMAGUCHI**
   Japan *21-2*
9. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *45-10-2*
10. **HI YONG CHOI**
    South Korea *19-2*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
6. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Junior Featherweight
7. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
8. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
9. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Flyweight
10. **IKE QUARTEY**
    Welterweight

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Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One "Mas" Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Chavez, Tyson, Tubbs, Sullivan, great first rounds.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

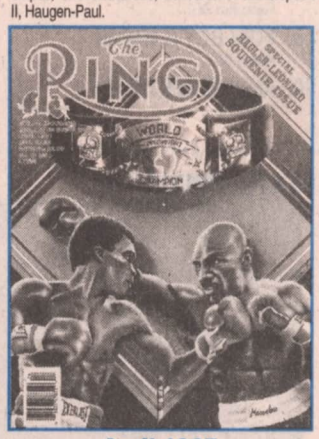
July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.



April 1987

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas; Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando

Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness—Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech, overrated/underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Leonard-Hearns I, heavyweight computer tournament, Ali portrait (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But *The Ring* Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Aug. 1995: Can Tyson Go From Great To All-Time Great? Plus: Antonio Barrera, Collins-Eubanks, Johnny Paychek, McCall-Holmes.

Sept. 1995: Bona Fide Superstar: Oscar Is The Boxer For The '90s. Plus: George Foreman, Danny Romero, Vincent Pettway, Lou Ambers, George Latka, What If ... McCallum-Hearns.

Oct. 1995: (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Nov. 1995: A 6-1 Favorite vs. Any Champion: Maybe They Should Just Give Tyson The Title. Plus: Roy Jones, Riddick Bowe, Ancee Gedeon, Hall of Fame, LaMar Clark, All-Time Top 10: Italy, What If ... Saad Muhammad-Scott.

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Jan. 1996: Go East, Young Man: Oscar De La Hoya—Making All The Right Moves Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Bruno & Eubank, who's hot & who's not, Eddie Perkins.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

April 1996: Oscar De La Hoya—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Mike Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, 1995 in review, All-Time Top 10: Africa.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

June 1996 (92-Page Special): The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years. Plus: Barrera-McKinney, Oscar De La Hoya, internet, Decade To Remember (1940s): Jimmy Bivins.

July 1996: Tyson! The Baddest ... But Is He The Best? Plus: De La Hoya-Chavez preview, Fabrice Tiozzo, Tommy Morrison & HIV, Malinga-Benn, closed-circuit, Chacon-Gomez.

Aug. 1996: A Closer Look At Tyson. Where He's At ... And Where He's Going. Plus: Joe Frazier, Roberto Duran, Buster Douglas, Arturo Gatti, women's boxing.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Oct. 1996 (92-Page Special): A Lift For Boxing: Oscar's Timing Is Perfect! Plus: What's good and bad about boxing, Azumah Nelson, De La Hoya-Chavez, Charlie Powell.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Holiday 1996 (92-Page Special): Tyson-Holyfield. Finally! Plus: Ali, Paz-Rosenblatt, 100 greatest title fights of all-time, Stillman's gym.

Jan. 1997: Riddick Bowe's Promise. "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Whitaker-Rivera II, meaningless records, Dick Tiger, Jess Willard.

Feb. 1997: Holyfield Of Dreams ... And Grim Reality For Iron Mike. Plus: Roy Jones, Ike Quartey, 10 fighters to watch, Joey Giambra, Washington-May, Fred Apostoli.

March 1997 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson. Can He Reclaim His Greatness? Plus: 10 greatest controversies, Teddy Atlas & Michael Moorer, Kostya Tszyu, George Chuvalo.

April 1997: Evander Holyfield—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Bowe-Golota II, Nigel Benn, David Reid, 1996 recap, Ray Actis, Joe Bugner.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING's 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

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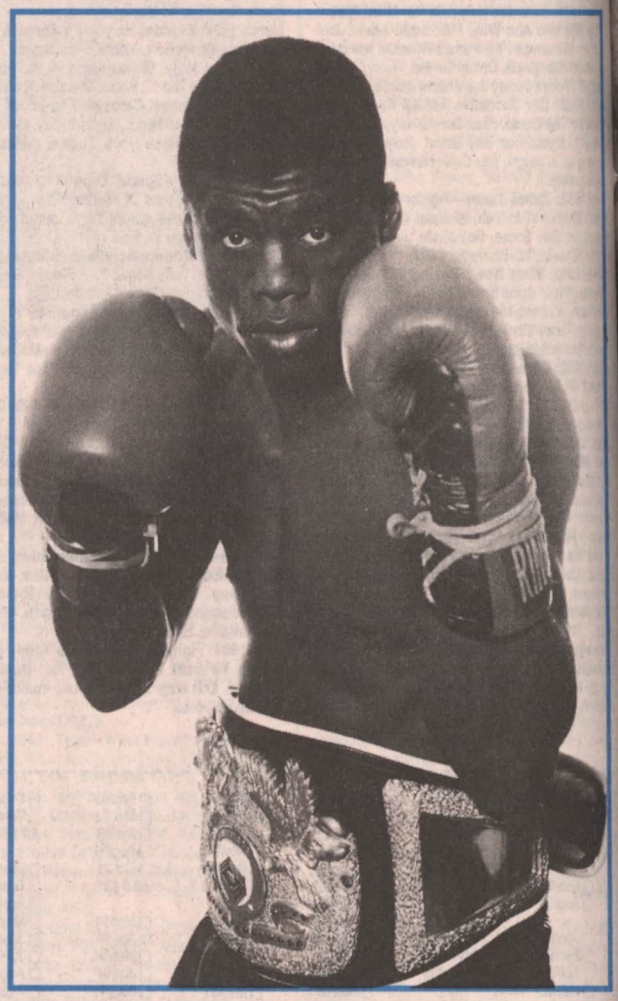
NEW FACES

FREEMAN BARR

Middleweight

By Roger Mooney



Freeman Barr's thumb was swollen from a punch he had thrown in the second round. His nose was still bleeding from a punch he'd taken in the third. There was a 14-stitch cut over one eye, courtesy of a fourth-round headbutt, and in the fifth, the corner-applied grease had worked its way into his eyes. Finally, the pace of the bout drained his strength by the seventh round.

It was Barr's first go at a 12-rounder, and the middleweight was being beaten up and beaten down. For the first time in his short career, he had lost a round. Now, his manager, Steve Canton, wondered if Barr would lose the fight.

"You want to be a champion?" Canton asked Barr in the corner before the start of the ninth round. "Then you got to suck it up and win the fight *now*."

Barr turned to Canton and smiled. Than he went out and whipped Anthony Brooks over the final three rounds to earn a unanimous decision. Barr had his win, and Canton had his answer.

"That showed me my belief in him is justified, that he can go to the top if he's healthy and get the breaks," Canton said.

Canton, who has been training boxers for 25 years, has worked with Barr since early-'94. He thinks highly of Barr's talents, calling him "the greatest prospect" he's ever seen. "It's all there; all we have to do is take the time to develop the real skill," Canton said.

Time is one thing Barr hasn't used much of since leaving his native Bahamas three years ago and heading for Florida in search of a world title. He's gone 13-1 (6), and with only nine amateur fights to his credit, the mid-

(Continued on page 58)

PRO RECORD

1993		
Feb. 26	Jim Sutton, Paradise Island, Bahamas	KO 2
July 3	Tom Bentley, Nassau, Bahamas	W 6
Oct. 30	Dave Hadden, Paradise Island	W 6
1994		
May 28	Glenn Major, Nassau	W 6
1995		
Feb. 6	Ed Strickland, West Palm Beach, FL	W 4
Sept. 23	Ernest Walker, Kissimmee, FL	W 4
Oct. 17	Ira Arthurton, Punta Gorda, FL	W 6
Dec. 12	John Morton, Punta Gorda	KO 3
1996		
Feb. 13	Ken Parker, Punta Gorda, FL	KO 4
March 26	Seth Bethridge, Immaukulee, FL	KO 6
Sept. 28	Anthony Brooks, Ft. Myers, FL	W 12
Nov. 19	Rito Ruvalcaba, Ft. Myers	KO by 8
1997		
Feb. 25	Andres Arellano, Punta Gorda	KO 11
May 23	Roosevelt Booth, Punta Gorda	KO 6

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
14	13	1	0	6

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FIGHTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

IS THAT ALL THERE IS?

Al Cole has had delusions aplenty in his fight career, but they have not been ones of grandeur. He never expected that winning a cruiserweight world title was going to result in his being buried in ticker tape one day and phone messages from Nike, Pepsi, and McDonald's the next. Cole never thought he was going to have to walk a gauntlet of paparazzi on his nights out, or that he would never again be able to make it through a restaurant meal without having to stop and sign someone's napkin or matchbook.

What "Ice" Cole did count on, however, were $100,000 purses and a healthy supply of contenders demanding a shot at him. Maybe even a title-unification bout, a not-so-crazy idea in a weight class desperate for anything resembling an attractive matchup. That wasn't too much to ask for, was it?

For Cole, it certainly was. He has added pounds and he fights as a heavyweight these days, not because the Muhammad Alis and Rocky Marcianos inspire him, but because the Lou Savareses and Frans Bothas do. Cole sees that even mediocre heavys are better-known and better-paid than the premier cruisers. When he won the IBF belt in 1992, titles were less watered-down than they are today, and during his three-year reign, Cole established himself as the world's best 190-pounder. But it meant nothing. He ruled a kingdom that was barely visible to the naked eye. He was Gnat King Cole.

"I thought I'd make cruiserweight important for the time I was there, like [Evander] Holyfield did,"

As a member of the promising Triple Threat team, Cole, then a cruiserweight, was overshadowed by heavyweight Ray Mercer and junior welterweight Charles Murray. Now he's campaigning as a heavyweight.

Cole told me. "All that happened was I ended up disappointed."

Delusions? Cole had some before this climb to heavyweight, too. They had nothing to do with driving Mike Tyson's nosebone into his brain or driving a Rolls-Royce up the driveway of a multimillion-dollar mansion. Nor did they involve pay-per-view revenue sharing or securing some wall space in Canastota. Ice simply thought he'd be more active, and thus more happy, turning back the Joe Hipps and Bruce Seldons, eventually building a top-10 rating and getting a shot at a title, if for no other reason than one of the champs would feel certain he could snap the lanky Cole like an icicle.

We'll skip the he said-he said recounting of why Cole can't get many of the names to fight him. The bottom line is that he's finding the gridlock didn't end when he exited the cruiserweight highway to hell and made a right turn onto Big Boys Boulevard. An expressway to success the new road ain't.

Cole is no favorite of promoters and television outlets, mostly because of his style. He is a tassel-free, hassle-free technician who doesn't shave messages into his head or insult people. To say that many of his fights have resembled chess matches is to insult the ancient board game's ability to raise a goosebump. Some Cole bouts make Gary Kasparov vs. Deep Blue look like Hagler-Hearns.

"Unless I had a disease, you'd think everyone would want to fight me," says Cole. "I'm no big knockout artist. I'm a skinny cruiserweight. What is there to be afraid of?"

If you're a heavyweight who's going places, there are a few things. Why put your title or ranking on the line against a guy who isn't popular enough to create great interest in your fight, will probably make you look bad with his jab and defense, isn't likely to be knocked out because his chin is strong, and doesn't have enough of a name or heavyweight history to enhance your resume if you beat him?

Cole had a chance to get some serious attention when he faced a resurrected Tim Witherspoon at Madison Square Garden in January '96. But it proved to be a dumb fight to have taken. Not only is Spoon stronger and more durable, but he is a good boxer himself. Cole lost his biggest outing to date—usually the best way to assure that your phone will be ringing non-stop in the months ahead—but went the distance, never hit the floor despite absorbing some bombs, and was enough of a pest over the 10 rounds to scare away many potential opponents.

The 32-year-old Cole fought only twice in '96, growing more frustrated with his career. His emotional outlet: Atlantic City. Last year, he blew more than $100,000 in the casinos, serious bucks for a guy who has earned only two six-figure purses ($150,000 and $135,000) in 30 career fights.

"Savarese did nothing and got to fight George Foreman," says Cole. "What was the combined record of Vaughn Bean's opponents before he fought Michael Moorer? When I vacated my title, I was one of the longer-reigning champions in boxing. That should earn me something."

It doesn't comfort Cole any to remind him that he should be used to this by now. At 6'1" and 150 pounds, he was thought to be too frail to make the high school football team, but he ended up starting at end and safety. He ousted Andrew Maynard from the Olympic Trials quarterfinals in '88, only to see the well-connected Maynard (one of his sponsors was Sugar Ray Leonard) reappear in the Box-offs. Cole thought he'd outpointed Maynard in one of the two Box-off fights, too, as did several fans who threw popcorn and soda into the ring. Maynard, however, got the decision and the trip to Seoul.

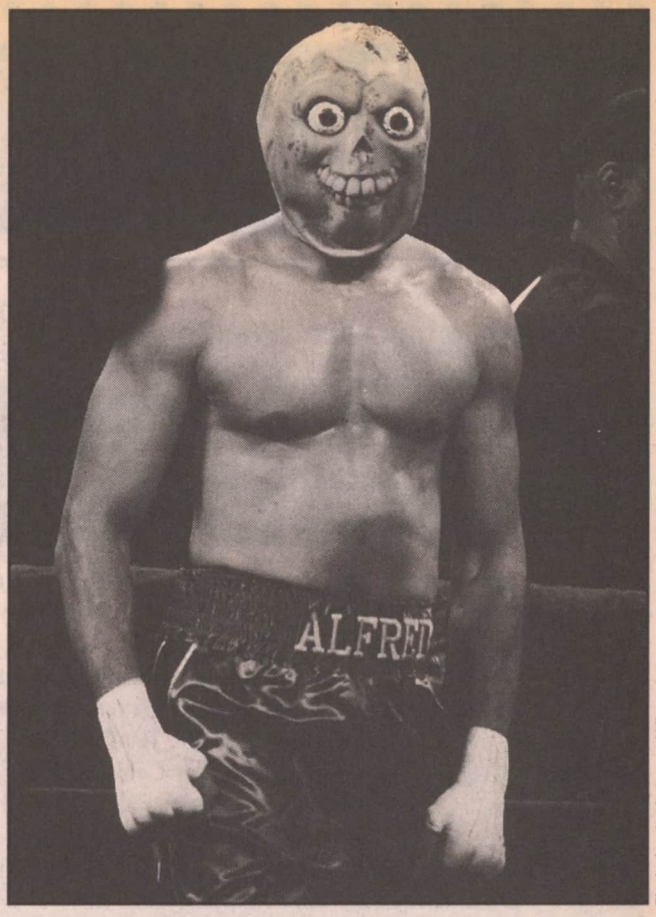


Photo by Andy Lyons/Allsport

Never let it be said Cole has a face that's easy to forget. Before defeating Matthew Charleston last year for his first career first-round kayo, the former cruiser boss entered the ring looking like an extra from Alien.

When Cole turned pro, he received less attention than the other two members of the Triple Threat Gym. Ray Mercer, after all, was a heavyweight with a gold medal, and Charles Murray could dazzle. Cole was just a stylist with a strange nickname. (Ice Cold, yeah, but Ice *Cole?* He says he thought it sounded better than Al "Red Hot" Cole. He was wrong.) Cole says he was dissed even by THE RING's 1996 Boxing Almanac. He didn't appear in the all-time cruiserweight top five, but Orlin Norris did.

"Orlin Norris got knocked out by Nate Miller, a guy I beat *twice*," an exasperated Cole says.

One can argue that if he wanted to make an impact at heavyweight, Cole should have simply found a way to beat Witherspoon. True, but when you see the way his crazy career has unfolded, it's still hard not to feel for him, and want to root for him. That's because he has played by the rules: He brings legitimate skills into the ring, trains hard, fights smart, stays out of jail, is a sportsman, and, as champion, was willing to defend his crown. Something has gone very wrong when a guy like that can be left wondering if maybe he should have chosen a different occupation.

The freak-show performers have become household names. Butterbean is on *The Tonight Show*. Christy Martin is on *Today*. Al Cole? He's just looking for reasons to still want to be a fighter tomorrow. ■

THE RING'S QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Compiled by Thad Moore

Q: GIVEN GEORGE FOREMAN'S RECENT SUCCESS AGAINST LOU SAVARESE, SHOULD BOXING FANS RECONSIDER THE APPEAL OF THE SENIORS TOUR?

Russell Peltz, promoter: "There are many phony alphabet belts around. People have to think back to the days of Duran and Ali and all the other greats. If we had only 10 or 12 divisions, we wouldn't have a Senior's Tour.

"Foreman's fight with Savarese was entertaining. But for every Foreman fight on the Seniors Tour, there are 20 or 30 bad Hector Camacho fights. Foreman can't beat the top guys in the division right now. It worries me that these fights may catch up to him in 10 years. It is possible that Foreman is just a physical marvel.

"Nobody cares about a guy like William Joppy. But they know George Foreman or Sugar Ray Leonard. Even a guy with ability like Ike Quartey, people don't know him. If someone living in Iowa turns on the TV, he'll end up watching a Foreman or a Duran if they're on.

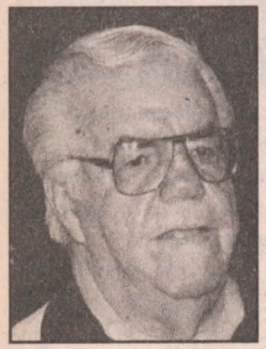
"When people have to pay $40 or $50 and pay for parking and food at a live fight, I think they're more interested in fighters in competitive fights. But when someone sees Joseph Kiwanuka and Antoine Byrd on TV, he may not watch it. The casual fan recognizes a name fighter like George Foreman.

"I think what Foreman has done is just an aberration. He can do it at his age, but nobody else can. If there were a lot of good heavyweights around today, Foreman might be in trouble."

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Did George Foreman's impressive points win over unbeaten Lou Savarese in April force observers to reconsider the Seniors Tour? Not all comebacks, of course, are as wildly successful as Big George's.

Q: IS RIDDICK BOWE'S RETIREMENT GOOD FOR BOXING? WILL HE STAY RETIRED?



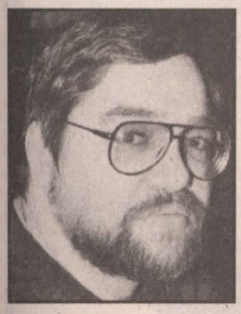
Lou Duva, manager and trainer: "I love Riddick. I've been around him for a long time. I helped him as an amateur, and his retirement is the best thing for him and his family. After fighting Andrew Golota, he knows he doesn't owe boxing anything. He's made plenty of money and has been a credit to the sport. He realizes he's in a position where he can jeopardize his health if he continues fighting.

"He's the kind of guy who wants to enjoy his life, his family, and enjoy his riches. It's a tough sport. Only a smart athlete can get out at the right time. I commend him for doing it. As a fighter, I think we've seen the last of him. He should get involved with the Olympics and with amateur fighters. I think he would be great working with the young kids.

"I definitely see Riddick giving something back to the sport. I hope he doesn't come back and fight. He knows it's time for him to move on. I hope people don't get him to come back."

What do boxing's insiders think of the hot issues? Each month, we'll come up with four questions, then grill the experts. If there's a topic you'd like examined, send your question to The Ring, Questions Of The Month, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034

Q: CAN RICARDO LOPEZ BE CONSIDERED AN ALL-TIME GREAT WITHOUT EVER FIGHTING OUTSIDE OF THE STRAWWEIGHT DIVISION?



Bernard Fernandez, boxing writer for the Philadelphia Daily News: "When there were only eight divisions, it used to be how many successful defenses could you make. When boxing went up to 17 weight classes, the measuring stick became how many titles you could win. But only your body tells you what weight you should be fighting at.

"I'm not going to dump on the guy if he stays at strawweight. At whatever point he is physically ready to move up, then go ahead. I don't think it should be held against him if he stays at strawweight.

"Lopez has no weaknesses. He's a boxer-puncher who can take a good rap, though he doesn't get hit that often. He dominates his opposition. I've seen him knock out guys with one punch, even though he is not a one-punch knockout fighter. He's a solid, well-rounded fighter."

"If you don't have a hook like Butterbean or George Foreman, it's difficult to become a mainstream superstar. Lopez has the ability, but most people haven't seen him. Butterbean's overweight, Foreman's old, and Oscar De La Hoya has great talent and is good-looking. If Lopez is fighting on a Mike Tyson undercard 2½ hours before the main event, nobody will see him. So it's tough to sell him. The average fight fan doesn't know Ricardo Lopez. It's a pity, but that's the reality."

Ricardo Lopez, shown beating Mongkol Chareon on points in March, has reigned as WBC strawweight champion since October 1990. Can he be considered an all-time great without having ever fought at a higher weight?

Q: WILL ARTURO GATTI BURN OUT BEFORE HE ACHIEVES CHAMPIONSHIP STATUS AS A LIGHTWEIGHT?

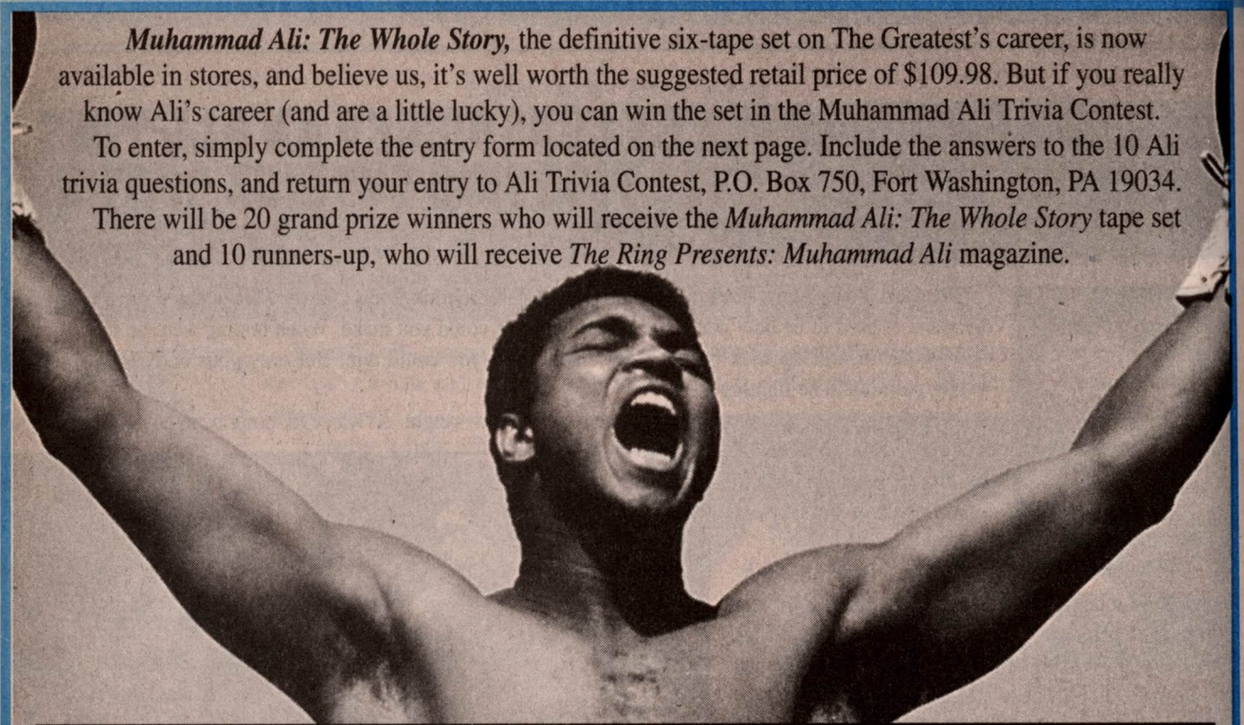
Dave Bontempo, boxing analyst for ESPN: "In his second fight against Tracy Patterson, Gatti was resilient after being shocked in the first round. He decided to box, use his height and reach. He displayed boxing savvy that had not been evident over the course of a long fight. This Gatti can win a title at lightweight.

"The other Gatti is the Gatti of the Calvin Grove fight. Grove hit him with solid, flush shots. If he fights like this, he would be 50-50 to win a title at lightweight. He would be just as likely to be knocked out as he would be to win. He's got the style to be successful. It is his choice as to how he's going to fight.

"Considering that Patterson rocked him and Grove landed clean, hard shots, someone five pounds heavier could pose serious problems for Gatti. He has shown the ability to take advantage of his reach and be disciplined in that way. I expect more of that from him as he gains experience. It doesn't seem like the people around him would let Arturo squander the physical advantage he has." ■

YOU CAN WIN THE MUHAMMAD ALI *THE WHOLE STORY* VIDEO COLLECTION!

Muhammad Ali: The Whole Story, the definitive six-tape set on The Greatest's career, is now available in stores, and believe us, it's well worth the suggested retail price of $109.98. But if you really know Ali's career (and are a little lucky), you can win the set in the Muhammad Ali Trivia Contest. To enter, simply complete the entry form located on the next page. Include the answers to the 10 Ali trivia questions, and return your entry to Ali Trivia Contest, P.O. Box 750, Fort Washington, PA 19034. There will be 20 grand prize winners who will receive the *Muhammad Ali: The Whole Story* tape set and 10 runners-up, who will receive *The Ring Presents: Muhammad Ali* magazine.



THE MUHAMMAD ALI TRIVIA CHALLENGE

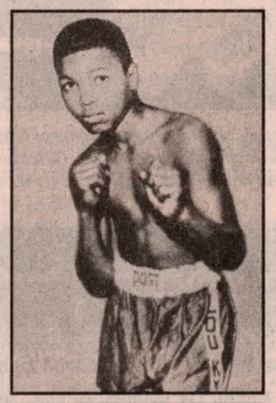
1. In what weight class did Ali win an Olympic gold medal in 1960?

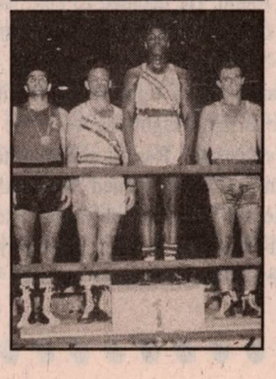
2. Who was the first fighter to knock down Ali in the professional ranks?
A) Alex Miteff
B) Sonny Banks
C) Joe Frazier
D) Doug Jones

3. Ali fought one former world champion before winning the heavyweight title. Who was that former champion?

4. What nickname did Ali give George Chuvalo?
A) Stone Face
B) The Tank
C) The Washer Woman
D) The Great White Dope

5. Who did Ali fight in Jakarta, Indonesia?
A) Joe Bugner
B) Jimmy Ellis
C) Cody Jones
D) Rudy Lubbers





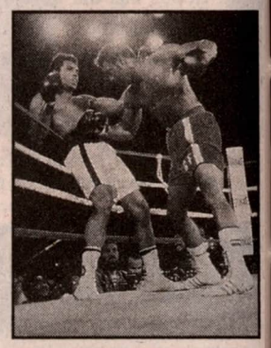
6. Which one of the following authors did not write a book about Ali?
A) Thomas Hauser
B) Richard Kaletsky
C) Ferdie Pacheco
D) Steve Farhood

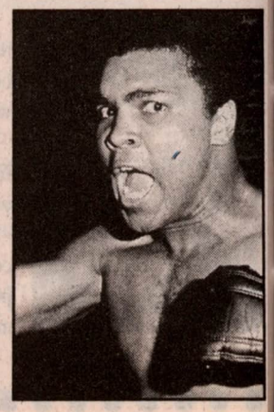
7. Ali's famous Deer Lake training camp is in which state?
A) Pennsylvania
B) Kentucky
C) New Jersey
D) Michigan

8. Who did Ali defeat in his last successful title defense?

9. What title was at stake when Ali knocked out light heavyweight champion Bob Foster in 1972?

10. True or false: Ali is the only man to win the heavyweight title three times.





GRAND PRIZE

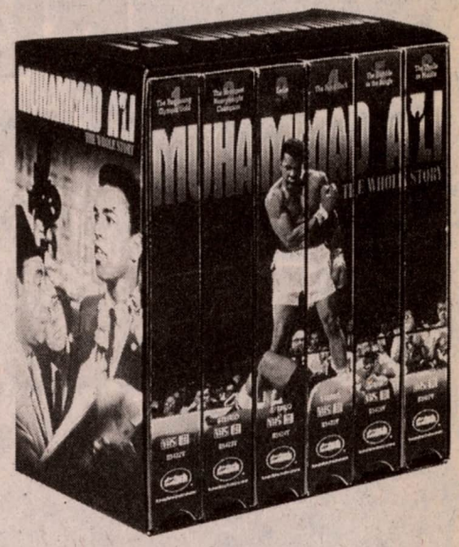
20 Winners will each receive *Muhammad Ali: The Whole Story* video collection (Estimated retail value $109.98). This six-volume set chronicles the life of "The Greatest" from the early days before the 1960 Olympics to the present. Without a doubt, this is the definitive video of Muhammad Ali!

RUNNER-UP WINNERS

10 Runner-up winners will receive a copy of *The Ring Presents: Muhammad Ali* (Estimated retail value $4.95) This issue was the first in the Presents series and is a bona fide Ali collectible.

To enter, simply complete the entry form located at the bottom of this page, include the answers to the 10 Ali trivia questions, and return your entry form to Ali Trivia Contest, P.O. Box 750, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY!

All entries must be received by September 20, 1997. Winners will be selected by the editors of THE RING and notified by mail.



CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Yes, I want to enter the Ali Trivia Contest. I have filled out my entry form and answered all 10 questions.

SEND THIS FORM, COMPLETE WITH ALL 10 ANSWERS, TO:

Ali Trivia Contest
P.O. BOX 750
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Please print

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ Apt. # ____

CITY _____ STATE ___ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER (___) _____ AGE ___

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS HERE:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

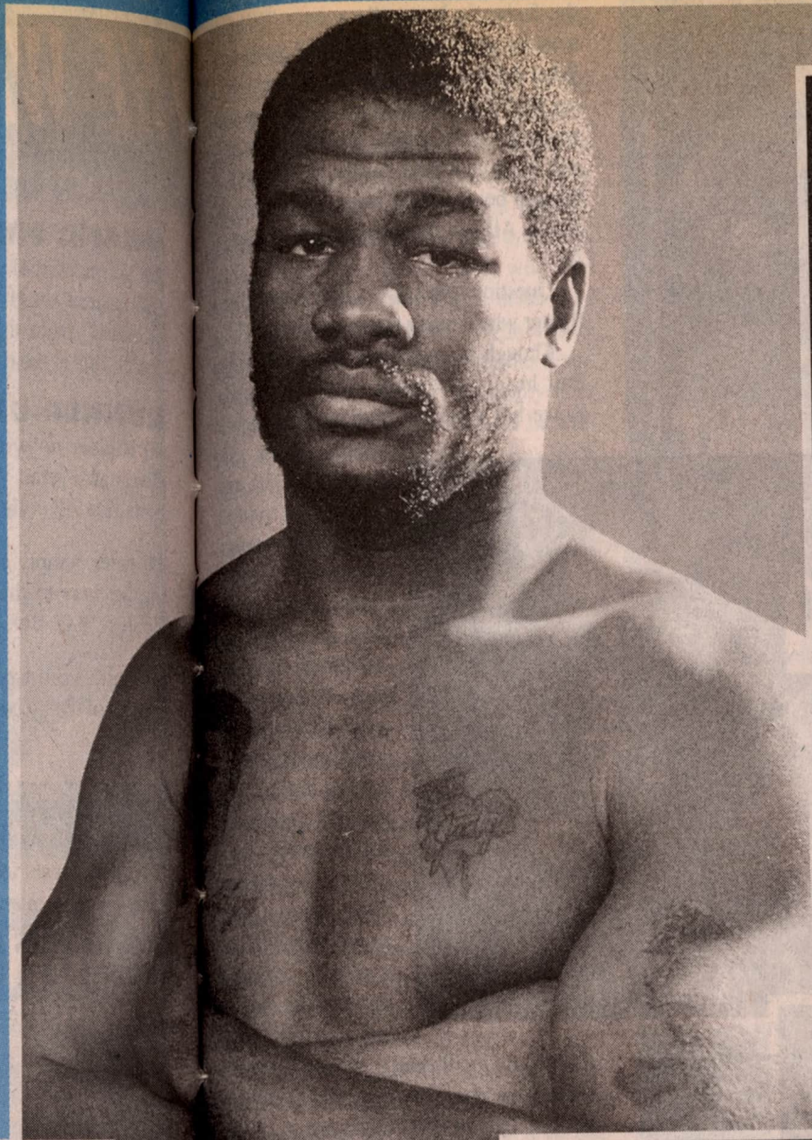
CONTEST RULES

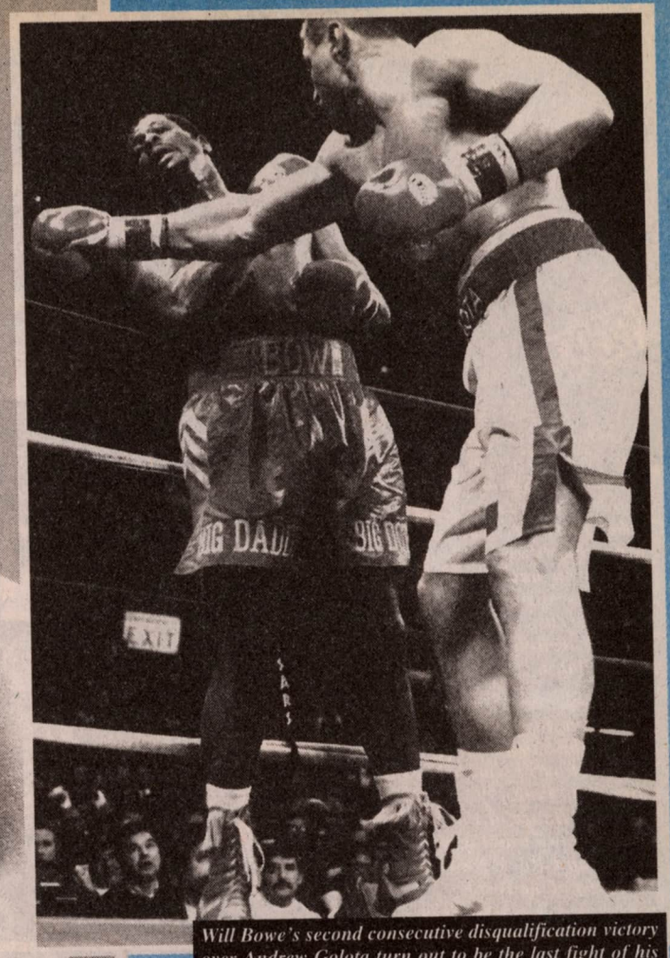
THE CONTEST: The contest begins July 1, 1997 and ends September 15, 1997. To enter and be eligible to win, fill in the coupon (or print your name, address, city, state, zip code, phone number, and the words "ALI TRIVIA CONTEST" on a 3"x5" piece of paper) and mail, together with your answers, numbered and listed in sequential order, to ALI TRIVIA CONTEST, P.O. Box 750 Ft. Washington, PA 19034. All entries must be postmarked by September 15, 1997 and received by September 20, 1997, to be eligible.

HOW TO WIN: One entry per household and one entry per envelope (or entries will be disqualified). Answer all ten (10) questions correctly and you qualify. London Publishing Co. will act as the contest administrator and verify the eligibility of each entry received. Approximately 10 days after the contest ends, or by September 30, 1997, twenty (20) Grand Prize winners, and ten (10) Runner-Up Prize winners will be selected at random from among all eligible entries received which correctly answer all 10 questions. The Grand Prize winners will receive a six-volume video set titled *Muhammad Ali: The Whole Story.* The odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received which correctly answer all 10 questions. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE. For complete rules and/or mail-in entry form with 10 Muhammad Ali trivia questions, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: ALI TRIVIA CONTEST, P.O. BOX 750, Fort Washington, PA 19034. All mail-in entries must be postmarked no later than September 15, 1997 and received no later than September 20, 1997. Contest sponsored by London Publishing Co., and Warner Home Video.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS: No purchase necessary. Contest open to all residents of the Continental United States. All entries become property of London Publishing Co. No substitution of prizes or cash redemptions permitted by winners. Total value of each GRAND PRIZE is $109.98. The value of each Runner-Up Place prize is $4.95. Total value of contest prizes is approximately $2,249.10. THE RING and the contest's sponsors reserve the right to substitute any prizes of like value in the event the awarded prize(s) are not available for any reason whatsoever. In the event any winner elects not to take delivery of his/her prize, THE RING, at its own discretion, reserves the right to elect not to award the prize to a substitute winner. Each of the winners may be required to sign an affidavit of eligibility. THE RING is not responsible for lost, misdirected, late, or ineligible entries. Void where prohibited or otherwise restricted by law. Some restrictions apply. Winners are responsible for all applicable federal, state, and local taxes. For a list of winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope by no later than October 15, 1997 to Winners, Ali Trivia Contest, P.O. Box 750, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. For a complete list of contest rules and prize values, send your request in a self-addressed stamped envelope to the above address. *Muhammad Ali: The Whole Story* video collection is provided courtesy of Warner Home Video. London Publishing Co. is not affiliated in any way with Warner Home Video.

RIDDICK BOWE'S CAREER IN PERSPECTIVE: THE UNDERACHIEVING OVERACHIEVER





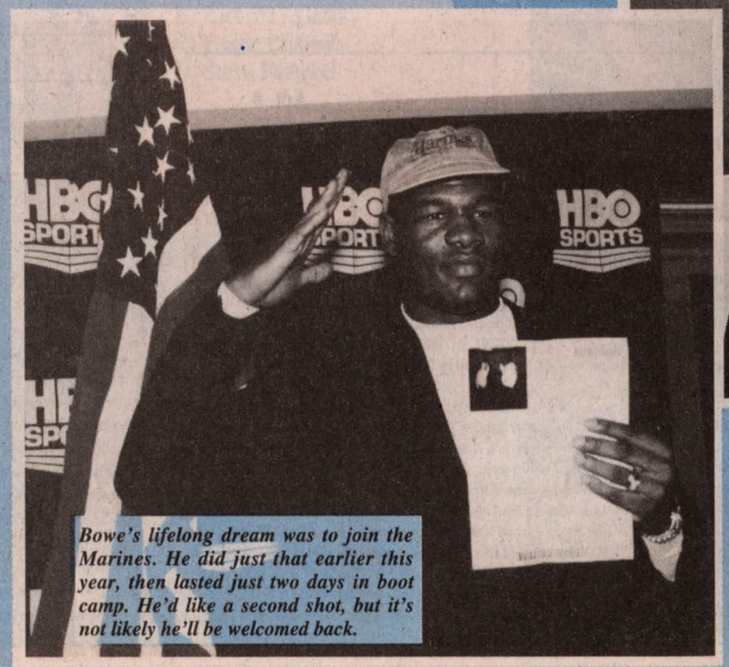
Will Bowe's second consecutive disqualification victory over Andrew Golota turn out to be the last fight of his career? "Big Daddy" has officially retired. Whether or not he stays retired is another question.

By Steve Farhood

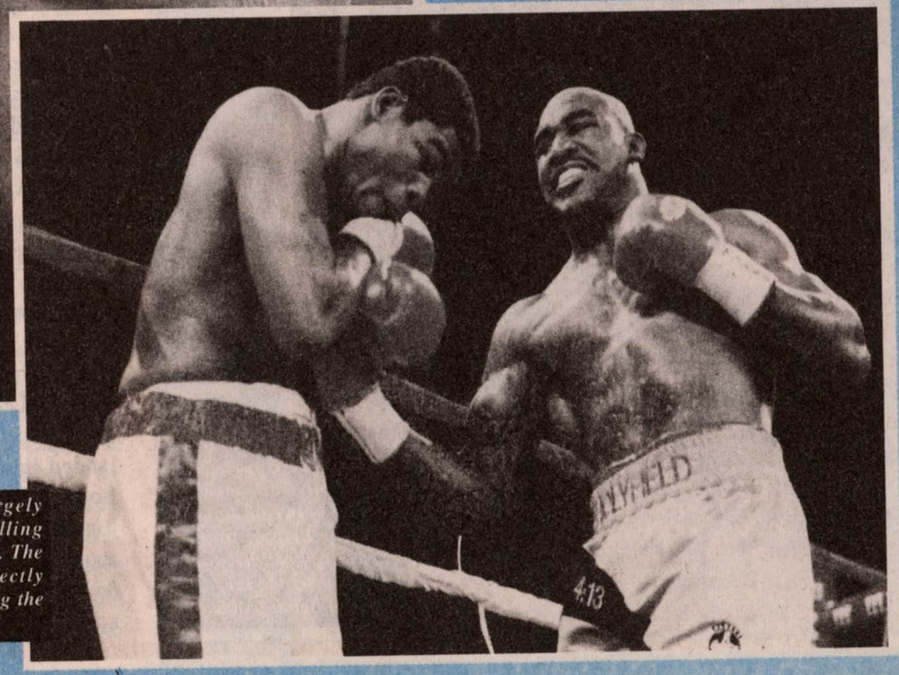
After his two-day stint at Marine Corps boot camp, but before his retirement announcement, Riddick Bowe and his manager, Rock Newman, paid Eddie Futch a visit at the Old World Gym in Las Vegas. "He wanted to know if it was possible for me to come back [to Bowe's home in Maryland] and work with him," said Futch, who left Bowe before the former heavyweight champion's second battle with Andrew Golota.

Does that sound like a fighter who's never gonna fight again?

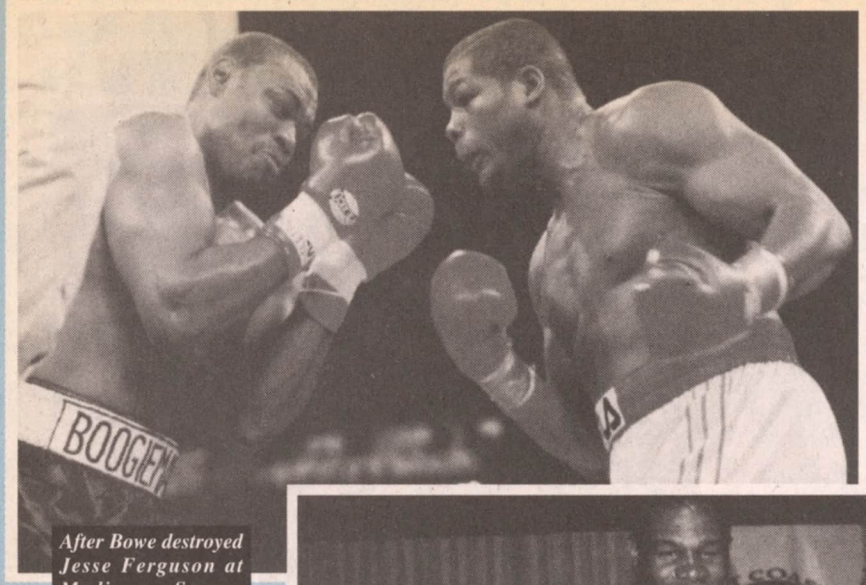
In May, *USA Today* boxing writer Jon Saraceno conducted a Q&A with Bowe at



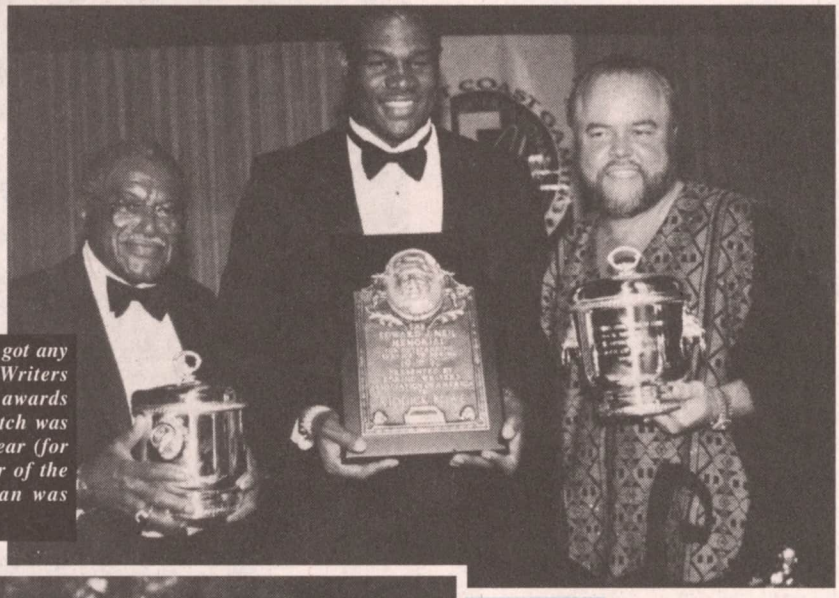
Bowe's lifelong dream was to join the Marines. He did just that earlier this year, then lasted just two days in boot camp. He'd like a second shot, but it's not likely he'll be welcomed back.



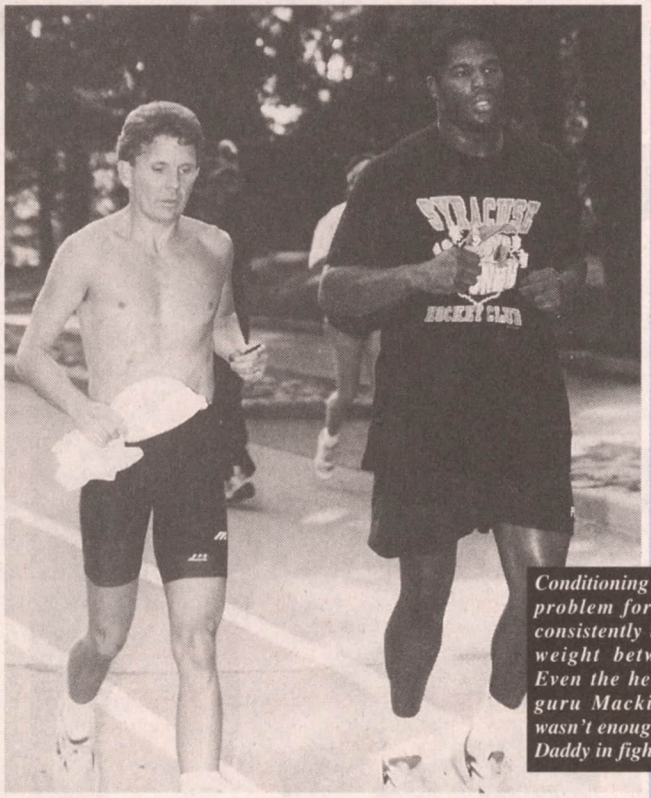
Bowe's career was largely defined by his three thrilling bouts vs. Evander Holyfield. The heavyweights were perfectly matched, with Bowe winning the first and third battles.



After Bowe destroyed Jesse Ferguson at Madison Square Garden, his trainer, Eddie Futch, decided the heavyweight champion had the makings of an all-time great. Ultimately, Futch was disappointed.



For Team Bowe, it never got any better than the Boxing Writers Association of America awards dinner in June 1993. Futch was named Trainer of the Year (for 1992), Bowe was Fighter of the Year, and Rock Newman was Manager of the Year.



Conditioning was always a problem for Bowe, who consistently ballooned in weight between bouts. Even the help of fitness guru Mackie Shilstone wasn't enough to keep Big Daddy in fighting shape.

the fighter's home. Saraceno: "What's next for you?" Bowe: "I'm 29 years old. What the hell am I going to do the rest of my life? I've got 65 years to go. My wife wants me to be happy. In all honesty, I'm not happy at this point in my life. I thought being retired would be totally different. All I'm doing right now is getting fat."

Question redux: Does that sound like a fighter who's never gonna fight again?

Though he has come to acknowledge that he occasionally slurs his words, Bowe has received medical clearance to fight again. He hasn't hit 30 yet, which, in today's heavyweight terms, means he's a newborn. And if he does come back, no promoter will be sadistic enough to make him relive his worst nightmare by forcing him to fight Andrew Golota for a third time.

In the meantime, Bowe has applied for a job as a school crossing guard. The pay is about $10 an hour. At that rate, he'll need to work 47 years—with no vacation—to earn the $1-million another fight on HBO might bring.

Forget *if*. Try *when*.

To see it, all you have to do is close your eyes: Original programming for HBO's fall schedule: *Make Room For Big Daddy*. Subtitle: *Riddick Bowe: The Comeback*. Playing on a TV screen near you.

Though we don't believe it to be true, let's give Bowe the benefit of the doubt and say he's *not* going to fight again, that he's more Marvin Hagler than Sugar Ray Leonard, more Michael Spinks than Larry Holmes. Let's say that when that right-left-right delivered so savagely by Golota landed into his groin last December, Bowe's eight-year career ended with a bang and a whimper. What do we decide about this enigmatic heavyweight? Where do we place him in history? For starters, and closers, what can be said of the

Golota rematch sums up Bowe's entire career: He went out a winner—sort of.

What can't be taken from Bowe is that the fighter who settled for silver in Seoul, and who, upon turning pro, was dismissed as a roly-poly bowl of jello, went on to reign as the unified heavyweight champion. In fact, he even dabbled with greatness. Bowe, who chose not to speak with THE RING for this story, was a little better than we ever thought he'd be. Maybe a little tougher, too. But commitment and discipline were sorely lacking, especially after the millions began to roll in, and if he realized his potential, the moment was gone before it could be savored.

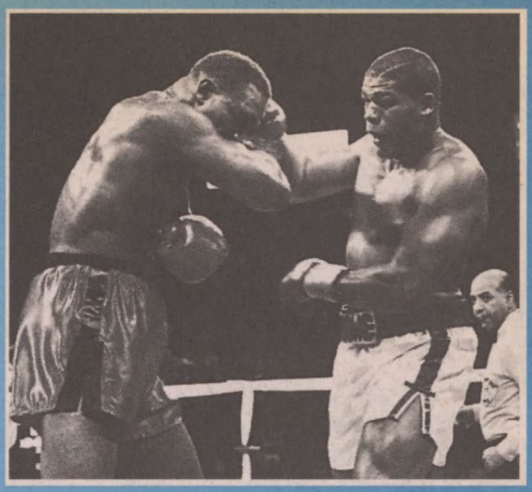
"He became the heavyweight champion," said Futch, "but he never became the fighter I envisioned. He could have been the best heavyweight I ever had." That's envisioning a lot when you consider that the Hall of Fame trainer's list of half-dozen heavyweight champions includes Joe Frazier and Larry Holmes.

Forget the fact that Bowe turned out to be an overachiever who underachieved. What ultimately hurts his standing is that while he beat Evander Holyfield two of three, he never fought Mike Tyson or his Olympic Games conqueror, Lennox Lewis. The window of opportunity for the most Brooklyn of showdowns was opened when Tyson returned after his three-year stay in prison. It was slammed shut last year, when Bowe was almost vasectimized, if not emasculated, by Golota, and Tyson was kayoed by Holyfield. Blame it on bad timing: When Tyson returned, Bowe was considered the best heavyweight in the world. But after more than four years out of the ring, Tyson needed a tuneup or two. Politics was a factor, too. Bowe was an HBO fighter, and Tyson lived on Showtime's side of the block. If you think trying to make Pernell Whitaker-Felix Trinidad was tough (we're still waiting for that fight), Bowe-Tyson would've needed the help of Mother Teresa, a federal mediator, the United Nations, and Greenpeace.

"We were never really that close to making the fight," said Newman. "The best shot at it was Tyson coming out of the blocks [his first fight after being released from prison]. We visited him for the second time in Indianapolis and told him there would be in excess of $120-million to split

(Continued on page 58)

BOWE: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY



Bowe-Holyfield I saw "Big Daddy" at his best

Here are the highlights and lowlights of Riddick Bowe's tumultuous career. There have been plenty of both.

THE GOOD

1. W 12 Evander Holyfield: Whoever thought he had it in him? Bowe wins the unified heavyweight title, outpointing "The Real Deal" in a fast-paced slugfest that includes one of the greatest rounds in title fight history (round 10).

2. KO 6 Jorge Luis Gonzalez: "Big Daddy" spanks the loudmouthed Cuban, who had beaten him as an amateur. A dominating performance against a heavyweight who, as it turned out, couldn't fight at all.

3. W Disq. 9 Andrew Golota: Showing the heart he was supposed to lack, Bowe survives his worst nightmare until Golota, who is ahead on points, lands one low blow too many for the second consecutive fight.

4. KO 2 Jesse Ferguson: Not that the opponent was particularly threatening, but Bowe, defending the title, nonetheless looks like a keeper. "When I watched him demolish Ferguson," said Bowe's trainer, Eddie Futch, "I decided he could become a great fighter."

5. Announcing his retirement: Acknowledging that he occasionally slurs his speech, Bowe, 29, bows out despite having secured medical clearance to fight on. But will he *stay* retired?

THE BAD

1. W Disq. 7 Andrew Golota: An all-time low for Team Bowe. The heavyweight is largely blameless for the mini-riot that follows his Pyrrhic victory at Madison Square Garden, but call it guilt by association.

2. W 12 Larry Donald: Sometimes it's what happens *before* the bout that counts. At a prefight press conference, Bowe takes trash-talking to the next level, striking Donald with a legitimate left-right to the face. A cheap shot of the worst kind.

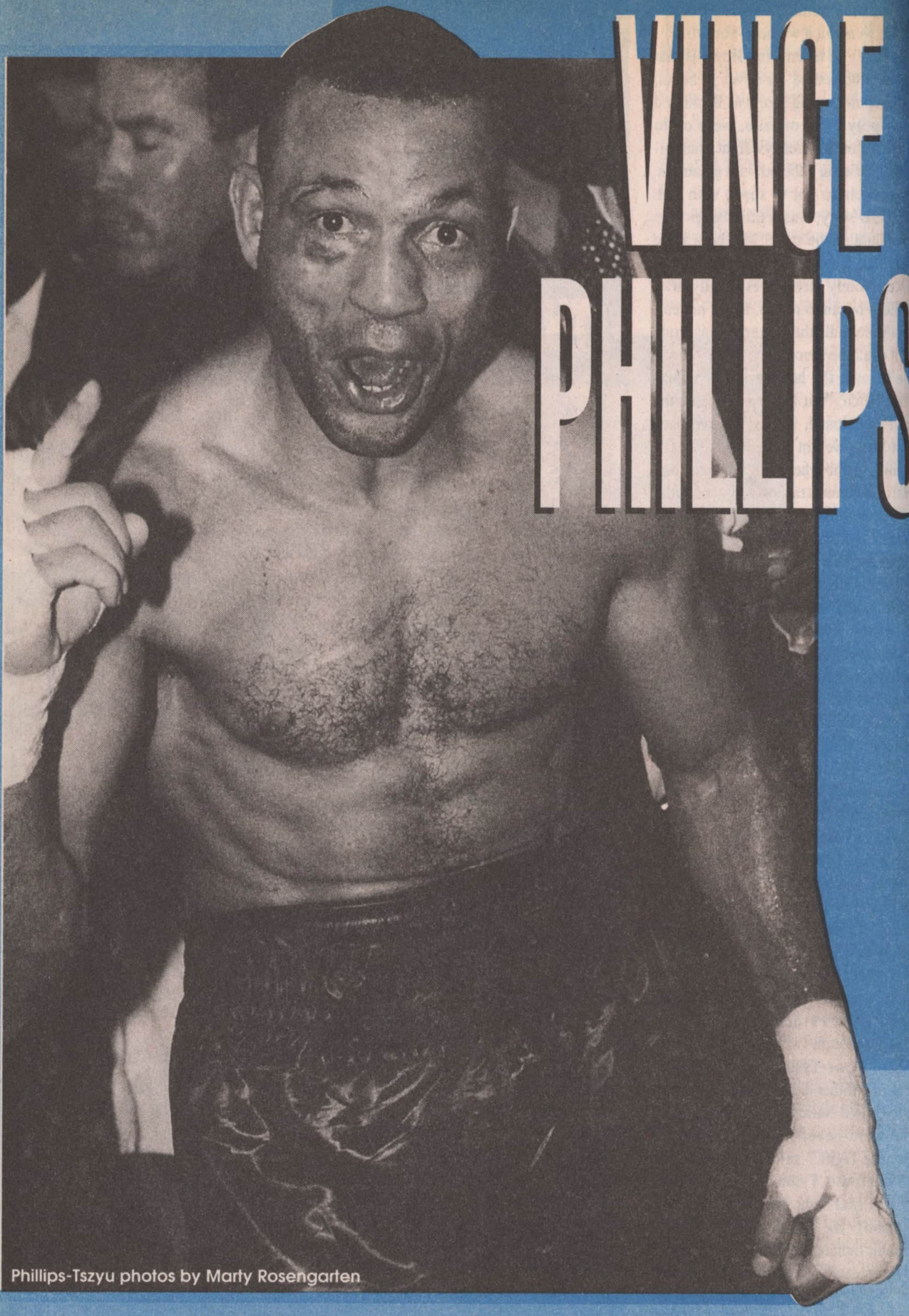
3. No-Contest 4 Buster Mathis Jr.: With the overmatched Mathis already down, Bowe connects with a right hand flush to the chin. Ugly for the fighters, but even worse for the New Jersey commission, which shows no guts in opting not to DQ Bowe.

4. Quitting the Marines: After only a couple of days in boot camp, Bowe returns home, leaving his lifelong dream unfulfilled. "I felt totally disrespected," he said. What was he expecting, a bachelor's party?

5. KO by 2 Lennox Lewis: It would take Bowe four years to shed the rep he solidified by drawing a pair of standing eight-counts and meekly bowing to Canada's Lewis in the gold medal match at the Olympics in Seoul.

–SF

VINCE PHILLIPS



Phillips-Tszyu photos by Marty Rosengarten

THE MAN WHO ZAPPED TSZYU

Phillips found Tszyu surprisingly easy to hit. When inside, he outworked the champion to the body. "I was hitting him in the heart, and that weakened him," Phillips said.

Tszyu's attack was one-dimensional; he repeatedly threw left-rights, but rarely connected flush. The Russian's power, which had resulted in kayos in 14 of his 18 wins, was never in evidence.

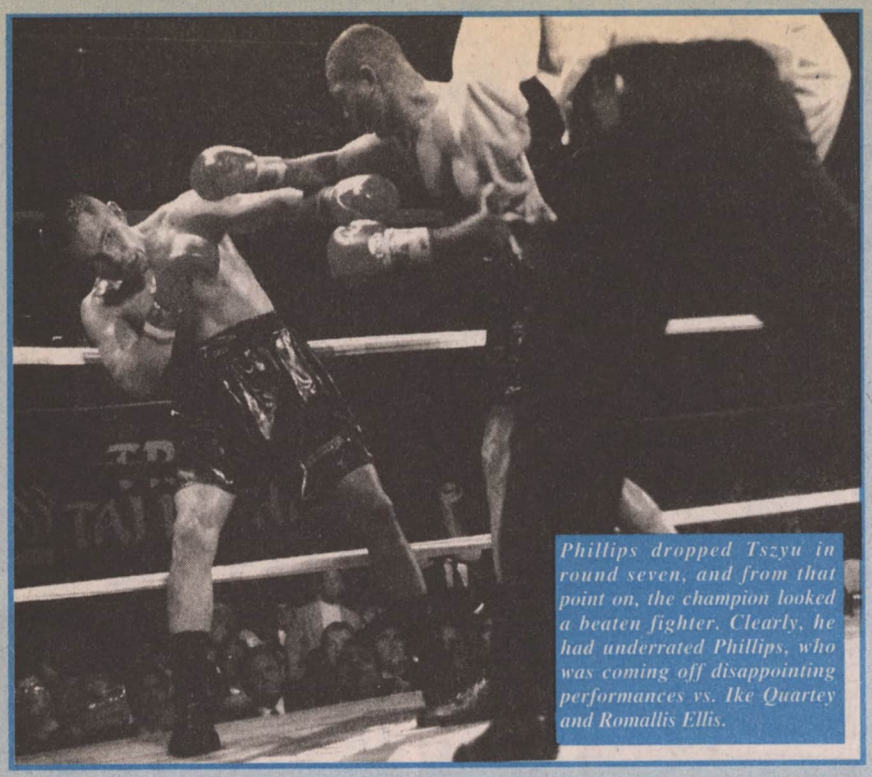
Can't Get Any Higher

By Ed Maloney

In the past year there have been several high-profile bouts involving challengers that few insiders, writers, or fans believed had a realistic chance of winning. Prohibitive underdogs like Evander Holyfield and Junior Jones not only scored upsets, but did so by convincingly beating Mike Tyson and Marco Antonio Barrera, respectively. Holyfield and Jones were facing defining moments in their careers. A loss would have virtually ended their runs as championship-caliber fighters.

Vince Phillips faced the most important moment of his professional career on May 31. It was his second and probably last shot at a world title. Instead of desperation, he radiated self-assurance.

"I'm so confident that I'll win," said Phillips, who was coming off a controversial 10-round loss to Romallis Ellis in January. "I've already won my toughest fight. And I'm ready to win this one."



Phillips dropped Tszyu in round seven, and from that point on, the champion looked a beaten fighter. Clearly, he had underrated Phillips, who was coming off disappointing performances vs. Ike Quartey and Romallis Ellis.

Phillips wasn't referring to a specific bout; he was speaking of kicking a seven-year drug habit. That defining moment came on May 16, 1993. Phillips decided, on his own, to cleanse his system of crack cocaine and never touch illegal drugs or alcohol again. Four years and two weeks later, he realized his career ambition by stopping defending IBF junior welterweight champion Kostya Tszyu at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City.

The previously unbeaten Tszyu, 18-1-1 (14), was one of the sport's shining stars. After winning the 139-pound world amateur title in Sydney in 1991, he was convinced by Australian promoter Bill Mordey to turn pro and relocate to the Land Down Under. He steadily moved up the ranks, and in January 1995, he destroyed Jake Rodriguez to win the IBF title. A Tszyu-Julio Cesar Chavez showdown was hotly anticipated. But as Tszyu's star ascended, Chavez' was in free-fall. So the Tszyu camp set its sights on a shooting star, Oscar De La Hoya. The Phillips fight, then, was seen by De La Hoya's promoter, Top Rank, and the Tszyu camp as a vehicle to showcase the hard-punching champion known as "The Baby-Faced Assassin."

Although most people expected a Tszyu win, even a blowout, there were some doubters. Matchmaker/promoter Mike Acri not only predicted a tough fight, but saw Phillips winning if Tszyu didn't stop him early.

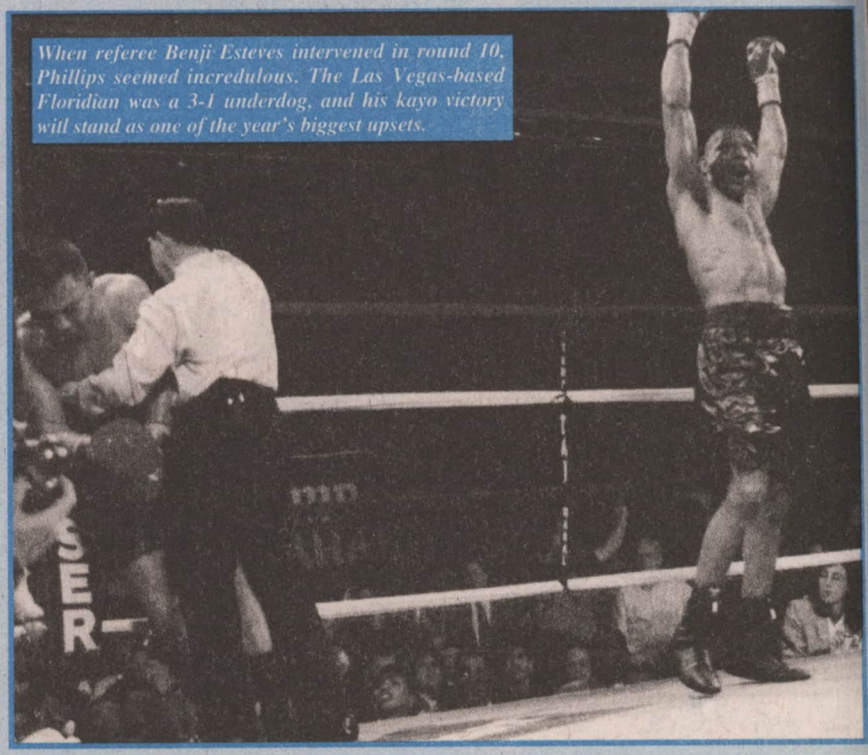
"I don't know why everyone's underestimating Phillips," said Acri, who booked some of Tszyu's matches when the fighter was promoted by Mordey. "He's a damn good boxer and he can punch. Phillips looked bad against Romallis Ellis, but he took that fight on short notice. If they think they're going to face that fighter, they're in for a surprise."

Although Tszyu, making his sixth defense, never claimed he'd walk through Phillips, 36-3 (25), the feeling inside his camp was that the fight wouldn't last five rounds. There were no disparaging comments, just supreme confidence in the man his trainer, Johnny Lewis, claims is the best fighter he's ever seen.

"Vince has never been in a bad fight, and he'd never lost at 140 pounds," Lou DiBella, vice president of HBO Sports, which televised the bout, said afterward. "Tszyu's an excellent fighter, but he was never tested. Most people made Phillips an underdog, but he was a live underdog."

The fighters set a brisk pace that began at the opening bell and lasted until referee Benji Estevez (USA) stepped in to save Tszyu. While Tszyu, 140, Sydney, Australia, opted to throw powerpunches with the expectation of an early-rounds demolition, Phillips followed a game plan of jabbing and throwing overhand rights and rights to the body. The champion controlled in the early going, landing short, crisp punches with both hands, often in two- and three-punch combinations.

Meanwhile Phillips, 140, Las Vegas via Pensacola, Florida, kept to the strategy that was devised by his coach, Ken Adams.



When referee Benji Esteves intervened in round 10, Phillips seemed incredulous. The Las Vegas-based Floridian was a 3-1 underdog, and his kayo victory will stand as one of the year's biggest upsets.

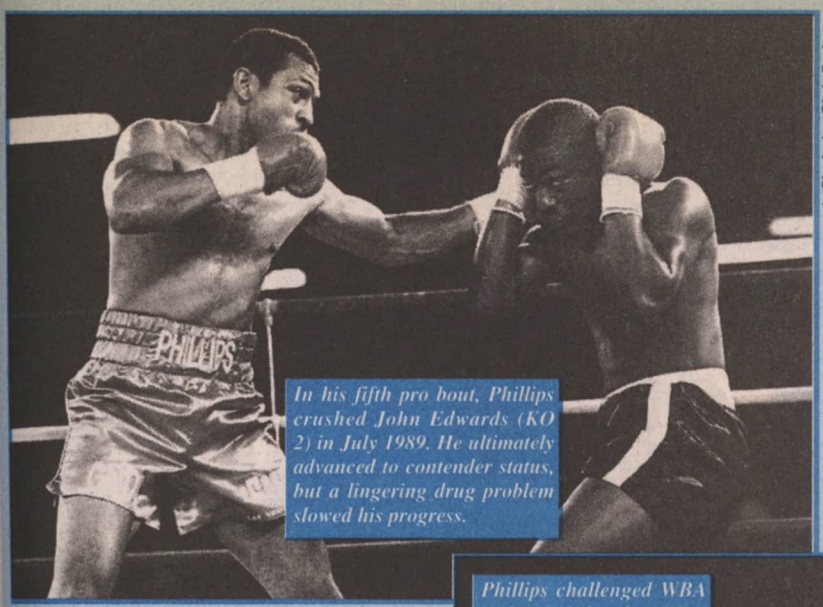


Photo by Chris Farina

In his fifth pro bout, Phillips crushed John Edwards (KO 2) in July 1989. He ultimately advanced to contender status, but a lingering drug problem slowed his progress.

toe with powerpunching WBA welterweight champion Ike Quartey before being stopped in the third round. "I had been hit by the hardest puncher at 147," Phillips said. "And I knew Tszyu couldn't hit as hard as Quartey."

And in January, with two weeks notice, Phillips lost a disputed 10-round decision to Ellis. Though most ringsiders thought Phillips deserved the verdict, he looked slow and unsteady. Like Holyfield before the first Tyson fight, he created the impression that he was a shot fighter.

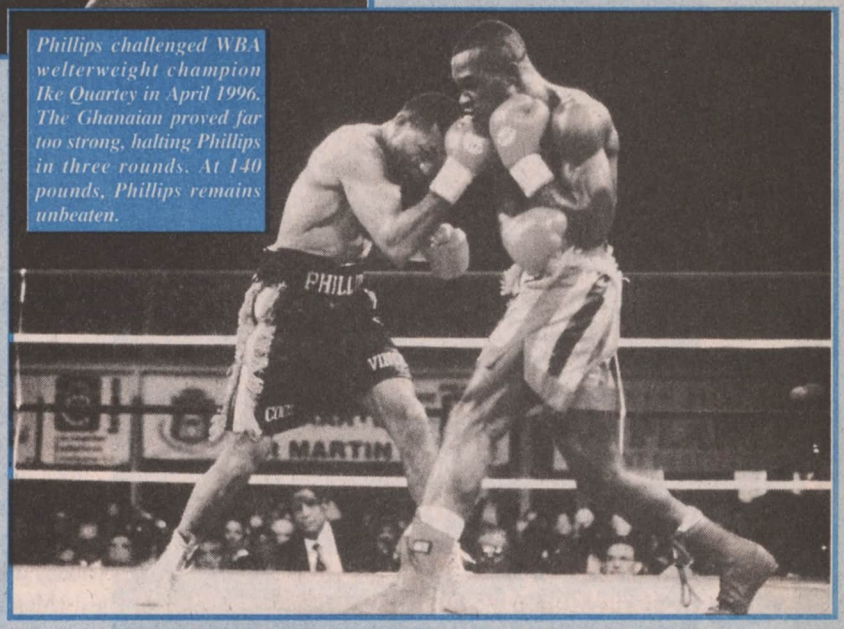
It wasn't long before Tszyu began to realize that the early exit his camp had

(Continued on page 59)

Adams had the advantage of having worked the corner of Jan Bergman, whom Tszyu had stopped in six rounds last September in Australia.

"I studied Tszyu on tape," Adams said. "But it really helped seeing him live when he fought Bergman. Jan used basically the same strategy as Vince, only Vince hits much harder than Jan."

Phillips was also able to take the champion's best shots, which, in his mind, were only the punches of a junior welterweight. All of the challenger's losses had come at 147 pounds. A 1993 fight against Anthony Jones was close until Phillips' corner stopped the bout in the seventh round due to cuts. In April '96, Phillips stood toe-to-



Phillips challenged WBA welterweight champion Ike Quartey in April 1996. The Ghanaian proved far too strong, halting Phillips in three rounds. At 140 pounds, Phillips remains unbeaten.

THE CLASS THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Photo by Roy Bailey

Vince Phillips' title-winning stoppage of Kostya Tszyu punctuated the junior welterweight's recovery from drug addiction. It was also a benchmark victory for Phillips' trainer, Ken Adams.

After 30 years in the Army, the last 12 spent coaching boxing, Adams, 56, has quietly become one of the pro game's top trainers. Almost all of his success has come with the Class of '88, which he guided at the Olympic Games in Seoul. "With Vince winning this fight," Adams said, "five fighters I've worked with from that class have won world titles."

Only one of those fighters, Kennedy McKinney, made the Olympic team. The others, Charles Murray, Al Cole, Eddie Cook, and Phillips, were alternates or losers at the Olympic Trials.

"Vince should've won a title in 1993, but the drug problem slowed him down," said Adams, who is based in Las Vegas. "McKinney and Murray I was always pretty high on. Cook I never thought would make it as a pro because he cut so easy, but he could punch, and he won the bantamweight title. Cole was probably the overachiever of the bunch. I had him from Day One in the Army. You never would've though he'd make it, but he had a big heart and learned real quick."

The same can be said of Adams, who, until the Class of '88 turned pro, had minimal experience with professional fighters. Now he's in demand. His latest addition is yet another non-Olympian from the Class of '88, WBA super middleweight champion Frankie Liles. And the fight Adams would most like to see? Liles vs. Roy Jones, who—you guessed it—is another graduate from the Class of '88.

–Steve Farhood

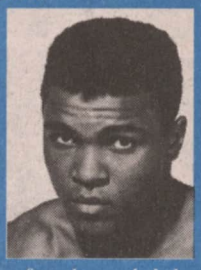
BATTLE of the LEGENDS

Heavyweights

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle of the Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, write to us.

Muhammad Ali

Louisville, Kentucky
Career: 1960-1978; 1980-1981
56-5 with 37 kayos



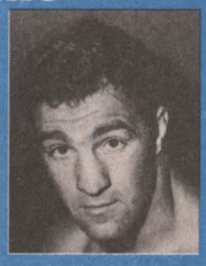
Speed, skill, and heart enabled "The Greatest" to win the heavyweight title three times; luck allowed him to compete during the greatest era in the division's history; fate demanded that he become a symbol for an entire decade.

A 1960 Olympic gold medalist, Ali (then Cassius Clay) wowed us with his mouth, then his fists. A 7-1 underdog, he dethroned Sonny Liston by seventh-round TKO in February 1964. He won the rematch in one round, then made eight more defenses before being stripped for his refusal to be inducted into the armed forces. His stand, based on religious beliefs, cost him more than three years of his prime.

In the '70s, Ali twice regained the title and engaged in memorable wars with Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Ken Norton, Earnie Shavers, and Leon Spinks. He came back after retiring as champion and was beaten twice. But his place among the giants had already been secured.

Rocky Marciano

Brockton, Massachusetts
Career: 1947-1955
49-0 with 43 kayos



"The Brockton Blockbuster" was a short (5'10½"), awkward slugger who broke his opponents with muscle and will, not speed and skill. His power was natural, while master trainer Charley Goldman honed the rest of his skills. Some historians rate him the best heavyweight of all-time, citing his perfect record. No other unified champion—in any division—can make such a claim.

Marciano first gained the spotlight in October 1951, when he hammered comebacking former titlist Joe Louis en route to an eighth-round stoppage. One year later, he won the title in most dramatic fashion, coming from behind to kayo Jersey Joe Walcott in the 13th round with a single right cross, arguably the most famous punch in history. He made five defenses, including two over former champion Ezzard Charles and an off-the-floor kayo of light heavyweight king Archie Moore, and retired in 1956 despite an opportunity to secure several additional paydays.

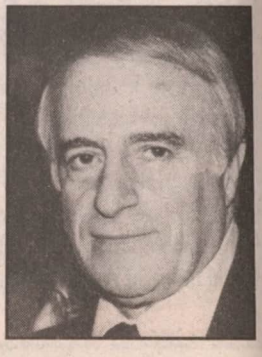
Ali was at his best when he destroyed powerpuncher Cleveland Williams (KO 3) in November 1966. Dancing and jabbing his way to victory, the Ali of the '60s was a drastically different fighter from the '70s version.

TEDDY BRENNER

I put Ali among the top two or three heavyweights of all-time. His weakness was that if he found himself behind by a point or two late in a fight, he didn't have the kind of punch needed to take you out. But he was a great mover who threw good combinations, even technically sound combinations, and he absorbed a helluva punch, which he proved over and over. His condition today is because he took such a good punch.

Marciano was a well-matched, well-managed heavyweight. He was well-conditioned and very strong, and his power was natural. He had a terrific punch. The punch he knocked out Jersey Joe Walcott with, he waited until the 13th round before nailing him. And he still had the power that late to finish Walcott. One other problem with Rocky: He cut easily.

Marciano would want to get on top of Ali, get inside, but he was short-armed, and he wouldn't get close like Joe Frazier did. Ali would keep moving, dancing, jabbing, spinning, getting behind Marciano. Ali was too fast. And if he did get nailed, he proved against Frazier that not only would he get up, but he'd get up fighting. Ali on points.



Teddy Brenner, who is retired, is generally regarded as the greatest matchmaker in boxing history.

Marciano hammers Roland LaStarza during their title fight in September 1953. The Rock won by 11th-round kayo, overpowering his arch-rival, who had extended him to a close 10-round decision in 1950, when both were rising, undefeated contenders.

Referee Carlos Padilla looks on as Ali guns for Joe Frazier during "The Thrilla In Manila." In one of the most memorable title bouts in history, "The Greatest" won the 1975 rubber match by 14th-round stoppage.

ART RUST

Ali was a great fighter, and one of the greatest heavyweights, but not *the* greatest. You see what you grow up with. I'm from the Joe Louis era, and I think Louis would've kayoed Ali. But Ali was a fast, clever fighter with a lot of heart. He'd be too big, too fast, too strong for Rocky.

I was ringside the night Marciano won the title from Jersey Joe Walcott. He didn't land that knockout punch until the 13th round, but he was a threat all the way. Rocky was a tough sonuvabitch, unskilled, but with a lot of heart. He was a good puncher and awkwardly clever. The bobbing, weaving style made him hard to hit clean.

Against Rocky, Ali would have the jab, the reach, and everything else. He'd be dancing all over the place, jabbing and occasionally landing the right, too. He had nothing to hurt Marciano with, but that wouldn't matter. Marciano would try to get inside. He could hit, but he had to get to you, and he wouldn't be able to hit Ali in the backside. He wouldn't get past the jab. Marciano didn't have speed. He'd want a long fight, but he'd get busted up. Ali by stoppage in the 12th round.

Art Rust is an author, radio and TV announcer, and boxing historian.

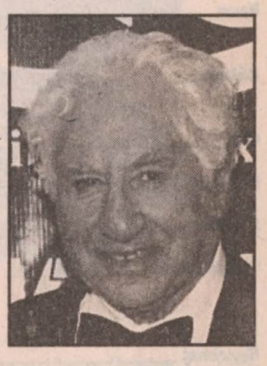
BUDD SCHULBERG

It's no secret Ali was the fastest heavyweight we've ever had. He was like a 200-pound Willie Pep. In his time, I don't think anyone could touch him—literally.

What happened in the first Ali-Sonny Liston fight was almost a "no mas." Liston finally gave up. But Marciano had more heart than Liston, and he wouldn't quit against Ali. He would plod on and on. Of course, with the enormous disparity in size and reach, he would have a very, very tough time.

Charley Goldman did a brilliant job with Marciano. What he used to tell us was that he wasn't gonna turn Rocky into a Tippy Larkin, that all he could do was make him more evasive and shorten his punches. I hate to say anything negative about Rocky, because he never gave up and never lost. But if Ezzard Charles could do to Rocky what he did in both fights, and if Archie Moore could do to Rocky what he did, imagine what Ali in his prime would do. He had that murderous jab, and he would've cut Rocky up.

The fight would go 15 rounds, with Marciano desperately pursuing. Ali by fairly easy decision.



Budd Schulberg is an award-winning author and fight observer who has penned, among other works, On The Waterfront and The Harder They Fall.

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HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Brian Nielson 1-Lennox Lewis 2-Evander Holyfield 3-Henry Akinwande 4-Mike Tyson 5-Andrew Golota 6-Michael Moorer 7-Ray Mercer 8-Tim Witherspoon 9-Larry Holmes 10-David Tua

SP.MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Mads Larsen 1-Steve Collins 2-Frank Liles 3-Robin Reid 4-Joseph Kiwanuka 5-Jorge Castro 6-Gary Ballard 7-Charles Brewer 8-Vinny Pazienza 9- Henry Wharton 10-Anwar Oshana

WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Kevin Lueshing *Interim Champion 1-Jose Rivera* 2-Felix Trinidad 3-Oscar De La Hoya 4-Ike Quartey 5-Pernell Whitaker 6-Wilfredo Rivera 7-Gary Murray 8-Patrick Charpentier 9-Frank Olsen 10-David Kamau

CRUISERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Nate Miller 2-Marcelo Dominquez 3-Adolfo Washington 4-Chris Eubank 5-Robert Daniels 6-Ralf Rocchigiani 7-Torsten May 8-Kenny Keene 9-Uriah Grant 10-Fabrice Tiozzo

MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1- Keith Holmes 2-William Joppy 3-Bernard Hopkins 4-Dana Rosenblatt 5-Lonnie Bradley 6-Hector Camacho 7-Quincy Taylor 8-Silvio Branco 9-Otis Grant 10-Glen Johnson

JR. WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Johar Lashin 1-Kosta Tszyu 2-Miguel Angel Gonzalez 3-Soren Sondergaard 4-Khalid Rahilou 5-Julio Cesar Chavez 6-Frankie Randell 7-Isreal Cardona 8-Giovanni Parisi 9-Pat Thorne 10-Scott DePompe

LT. HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Drake Thadzi 1-Virgil Hill 2-Montell Griffin 3-Dariusz Michalczewski 4-Roy Jones Jr. 5-Fredrik Alvarez 6-Graciano Rocchigiani 7-Darren Allen 8-William Gunthrie 9-Rocky Gannon 10-Michael Nunn

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Manny Sobral 1-Terry Norris 2-Laurent Boudaouani 3-Winky Wright 4-Paul Vaden 5-Raul Marquez 6-Jose Luis Lopez 7-Crisanto Espana 8-Bronco McKart 9-Anthony Stephens 10-Yori Boy Campas

LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Tony Pep 1-Orzubek Nazarov 2-Phillip Holiday 3-Steve Johnston 4-Shane Mosley 5-George Scott 6-Lamar Murphy 7-Jean Baptist Mendy 8-John John Molina 9-Johnny Montantez 10-Billy Irwin

JR. LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Troy Dorsey 1-Arturo Gatti 2-Regilio Tuur 3-Genaro Hernandez 4-Azumah Nelson 5-Yong Soo Choi 6-Anatoli Alexandrov 7-Joel Casamayor 8-Saul Duran 9-Dennis Holbaek 10-Singhnum Yamaki Gym

BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Johnny Bredahl 1-Mbulelo Botile 2-Robbie Regan 3-Daorund Chuvatana 4-Nana Konadu 5-Veeraphol Sahaprom 6-Paulie Ayala 7-Sirimon Singmanassuk 8-Ancee Gedeon 9-Jorge Julio 10-John M. Johnson

JR. FLYWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Saman Sorjaturong 2-Keji Yamaguchi 3-Maricio Pastrana 4-Michael Carbajal 5-Jake Matlala 6-Hi-Yong Choi 7-Pongsaklak Sitanongaok 8-Hadao C. P. Gym 9-Nungdien Sakchaporn 10-Rudy Edano

FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Naseem Hamed 2-Luisito Espinosa 3-Wilfredo Vasquez 4-Tom Johnson 5-Franciso Segura 6-Kevin Kelly 7-Eloy Rojas 8-David Toledo 9-Welcome Ncita 10-Richard DeJesus

JR. BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Angel Almena 1-Danny Romero 2-Johnny Tapia 3-Gerry Penalosa 4-Katsuya Onizuka 5-Yokthai Sith-Oar 6-Carlos Salazar 7-Ratanchai Sor Voraphin 8-Torsak Saspraphagym 9-Hiroshi Kawashima 10-Harold Grey

MINI-FLYWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Ricardo Lopez 2-Ratanapol Sow Voraphin 3-Alex Sanchez 4-Rosendo Alvarez 5-Juan Herrera 6-Kermin Guardia 7-Song Porpaoin 8-Chana Porpaoin 9-Rolando Tuyugon 10-Wonwin Jaw Chareon

JR. FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Sergei Devakov 1-Junior Jones 2-Daniel Zaragoza 3-Antonio Cermino 4-Vuyani Bungu 5-Marco Antonio Barrera 6-Wayne McCullough 7-Dejpow Paointr 8-Kong Sor Kitti 9-Rico Siodora 10-Frankie Toledo

FLYWEIGHT Ch: Scotty Olson 1-Yuri Arbachakov 2-Mark Johnson 3-Jesus Zuniga 4-Jose Bonilla 5-Jesper D. Jensen 6-Jose Luis Zepeda 7-Saen Sow Pleonchit 8-Will Grigsby 9-Chatchai Elite Gym 10-Arthur Johnson

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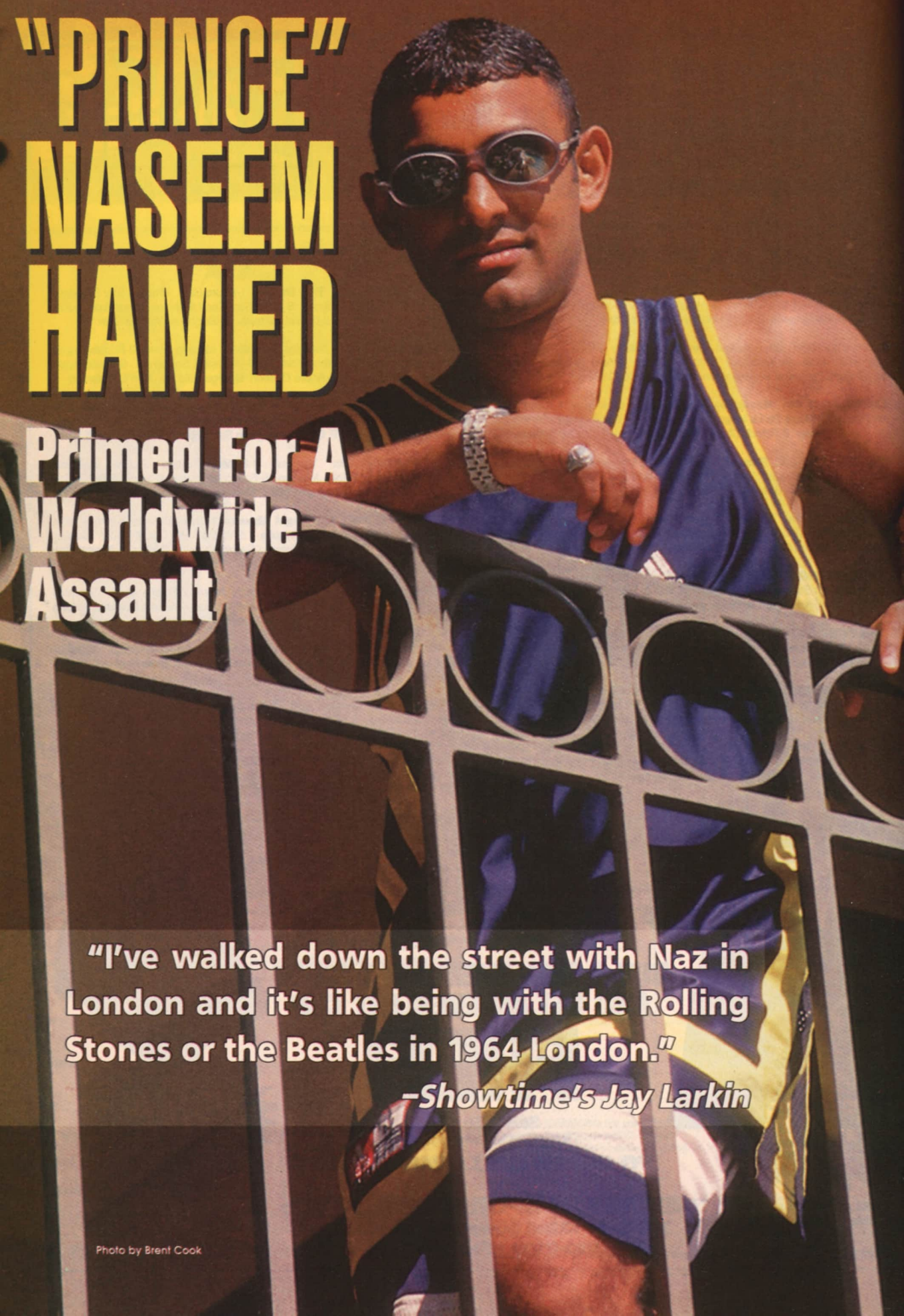


"I've walked down the street with Naz in London and it's like being with the Rolling Stones or the Beatles in 1964 London."

–Showtime's Jay Larkin

Photo by Brent Cook

By Ivan Goldman

A sweaty gym? A musty fight arena? We met up with vacationing featherweight Naseem Hamed poolside at one of the finest hotels in Beverly Hills, California.

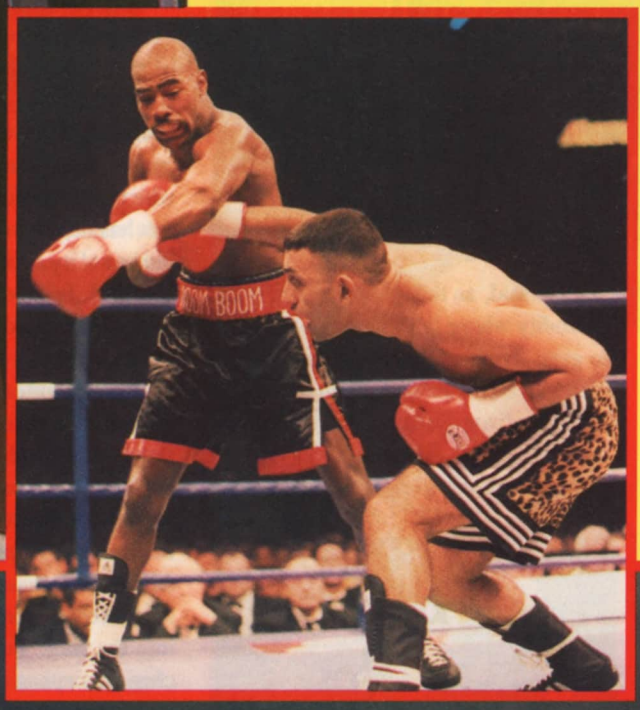
The self-assured "Prince" (on the phone, he'd introduced himself as Prince Naseem) and the terminally extravagant, world-renowned hamlet of Beverly Hills were a great fit, like a championship set of 10-ounce gloves. The Prince, or Naz, as friends call him, was staying in a magnificent suite just steps from a sky-blue pool, a demurely cascading fountain, and a squadron of efficient, eager-to-please waiters.

Beverly Hills is not exactly starved for celebrities. But the two or three dozen guests lounging poolside, top-heavy with jewelry, cell phones, and liposuction experience, looked up, clearly fixated as the poised, young athlete descended the exterior stairs to our table.

Of course, the fact he was carrying two gleaming championship belts on his shoulders just may have had something to do with all the attention.

When we first made inquiries about meeting for an interview and cover photo, Hamed agreed on one condition: He would not appear on the cover without his belts. Problem was, he didn't have them with him. After all, how many world champions stick their belts in a holiday suitcase? Anyway, the editors scrambled successfully for duplicate WBO and IBF belts, which were shipped to Hamed. And here he was.

Except among hard-core fight fans, the Prince, 23, remains relatively unknown to the American public. But he is hugely famous in the British Isles, the homegrown equivalent of Michael Jordan and Tom Cruise all rolled up in one charismatic attraction whose fight record stands at 26-0 (24).



Hamed's biggest win, and the performance that convinced most American fight fans he's for real, was his eighth-round stoppage of defending IBF featherweight champion Tom Johnson in February. As usual, the Prince attacked from a variety of angles.

Photos by Tom Casino/Showtime

Photo by Brent Cook

Los Angeles seemed to agree with Hamed, who looks forward to defending the featherweight title in the USA. Trouble is, he's been making so much money in England, there's been no reason to pack his bags.

"I've walked down the street with Naz in London," says Showtime boxing impresario Jay Larkin, "and it's like being with the Rolling Stones or the Beatles in 1964 London. People won't let him alone. The Brits just love Naz."

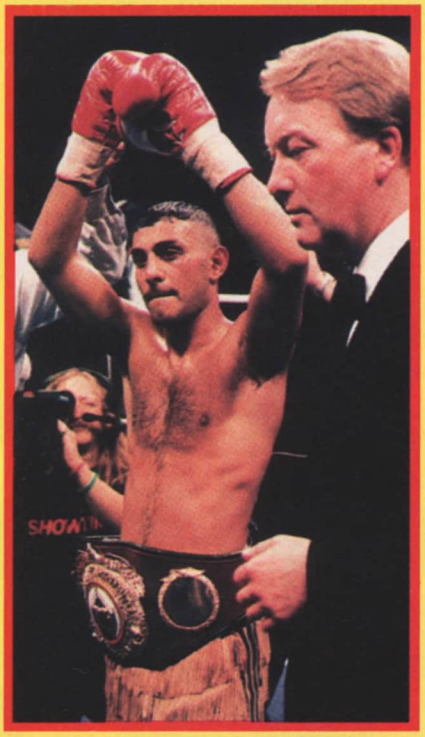
Showtime has Hamed under contract, but the fighter's primary network contract is with Europe's Sky Television, which is loath to let him fight outside Britain. "Sky TV wants him fighting in their prime time," Larkin explained. "If he fights here, it would be 4 a.m. in the U.K. So their reluctance is understandable. But to achieve recognition here, he's going to have to fight in the United States."

So far, only a few of Hamed's fights have been televised in America, and he hasn't made the U.S. talk-show circuit. Therefore, he was able to vacation stateside without causing any traffic jams. Those who recognized him tended to be vacationing Brits and Arabs. The British-born Naz is of Yemenite ancestry and a hero from Abu Dabi to Liverpool.

He was having a terrific time in Southern California, thank you, and immediately made it known he was eager to "get back to the beach" as soon as possible. He clearly enjoyed his relative anonymity this side of the big pond. But he was also eager to create U.S. fans.

"I can't wait to hit America, to fight here," he said, as though he were a secret commodity whose sales are about to break into giant figures. "I think they're going to like my style. I want to fight in Las Vegas and at Madison Square Garden in New York."

Naz, who tends to come off in pre- and post-fight interviews as an arrogant kid who could use a stiff right hand to the ego, is far more relaxed and engaging in person. Like most superstar boxers, he is infinitely more personable and decent than your average tennis, baseball, or basketball mega-athlete.



Hamed and promoter Frank Warren have had a lot to celebrate. So far, the fighter has had little to worry about in going 26-0 (24).

The son of a steelworker, he is a young man who revels in his success, but by all accounts has not let it ruin him.

"It's a great satisfaction to me that now my family can live the way I want them to live," he said. "I thank God." He's bought his parents a "mansion," he said. "They travel all around the world."

And his four brothers and four sisters? "They all have nice cars and nice houses," he said. "I love them all."

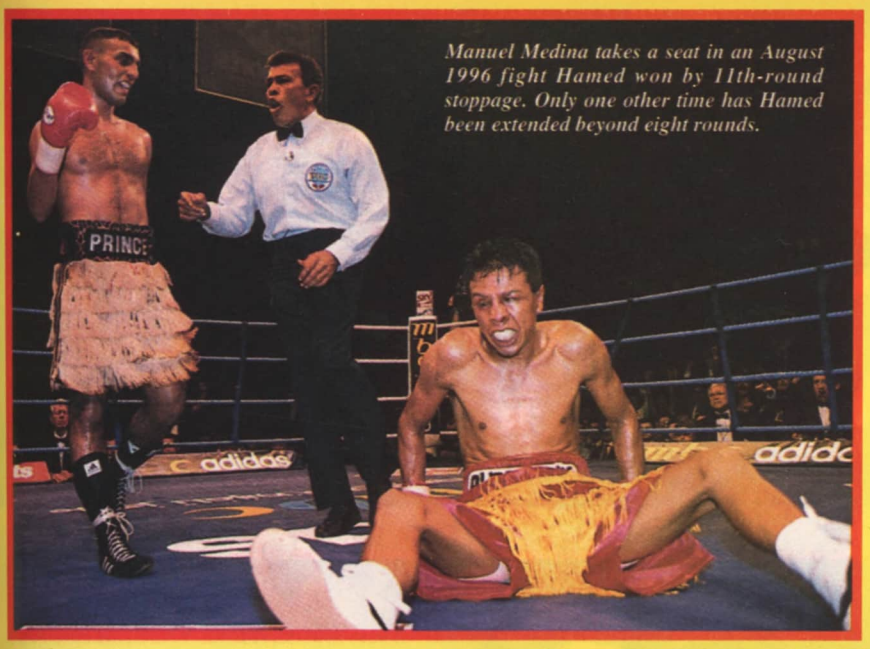
Naz' purses are all in seven figures, confirmed Showtime's Larkin. Part of this can be attributed to Hamed's abilities, which are considerable. But more important has been his level of showmanship and personality, his ability to articulate thoughts, his looks—the entire basket of attributes lumped under the catch-all label of charisma.

Many fighters understand the importance of charisma. But when they try to stand out from the crowd, more often than not they succeed only in stooping to the level of professional wrestlers. It's doubtful Bernard Hopkins' executioner's cape works all that well for him. Ditto for the bejeweled dog collar Roy Jones once wore into the ring. Yet Jorge Paez, considered charismatic, has indeed created a following with his outrageous antics and outfits. There is a Catch-22 to charisma: If you must seek its essence, obviously you don't have it.

Hamed's link with Showtime came about because he is promoted by England's Frank Warren. Warren works closely with Don King, who provides Showtime with virtually all of its boxing.

Larkin said he is so eager to expand Hamed's U.S. exposure that he may lend him to a U.S. broadcast network, thus providing a larger audience than Showtime's. (As we went to press, Hamed was scheduled to fight on ABC in July.) "If we don't entertain that kind of deal," he asked rhetorically, "where are the stars of tomorrow going to come from?"

U.S. prize fighting has been stuck inside this financial conundrum for



Manuel Medina takes a seat in an August 1996 fight Hamed won by 11th-round stoppage. Only one other time has Hamed been extended beyond eight rounds.

decades. The broadcast networks, when they do contemplate air time for boxing, won't bid competitively with pay networks and pay-per-view. So as soon as a fighter becomes an important attraction, he rises out of the general public's sight. If baseball behaved the same way, only minor league games would be broadcast.

Meanwhile, Hamed, even without much U.S. exposure, has already enjoyed more financial success than any featherweight in history. "My brother Riath is my business manager," he said. "He made a deal with adidas for obscene amounts of money so I would wear their gear. He's a clever guy, Riath."

He may look upon that income as a gift, but what about the platinum wristwatch he was wearing? Studded generously with diamonds all around the face and the band itself, it could no doubt trade for a sizable piece of Beverly Hills real estate. "You like it?" he said. "It was a gift from the king of Qatar."

The president of Yemen, he said, has presented him with a Mercedes and a villa. "He calls me before and after every fight. I am proud to be Arab and I am proud to be British."

Hamed's absorbing presence works in the ring as well as out. As soon as he does his customary back-flip into the ring, his body language dismisses the other guy as an irrelevant steppingstone on the Prince's pre-ordained path to greatness. When we discussed other fighters in his weight class, he seemed to assume they were bowling ward. It's bizarre.

He careens around the ring like a snapped spring, lunging forward, backward, left, right. Just when you think he's going to get tangled in his own feet, he charges in behind a punch that lands like a howitzer shell. Which is exactly how he stopped Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson in the eighth round to take the IBF title. After that, detractors could no longer dismiss Hamed as a weirdo who hasn't fought anybody.

Kevin Kelley, among others, has declared that Hamed seems to have no defense at all. But the fact is, no one has ever penetrated his defense seriously enough to beat him. Hamed can be hit, but he also counterpunches with terrific force. There is nothing like one-punch kayo

Billy Hardy lasted about half a round against "The Prince" in May. Hamed has good power, especially for a feather, and chances are he'll tell you about it whether you ask him to or not.

pins he would eventually get around to knocking down.

Then there's his style. Fight fans know that when fighters describe someone as awkward, they're not referring to a lack of grace. They mean he's so unconventional, they can't figure out what he's going to do next. But Hamed's style is beyond awkpower to create suspense and excitement in the ring.

"Everything I do is choreographed," Hamed said. "People see those moves—they're not textbook moves—and they think, *He doesn't know what he's doing.* Believe me, I know exactly what I'm

(Continued on page 56)

BANG THE GONG SORJATURONG

In Thailand, Saman's The Man

In order to win the junior flyweight title, Sorjaturong had to dethrone his idol, Mexico's Chiquita Gonzalez (above). After a breathtaking give-and-take brawl that was chosen as 1995's Fight of the Year, Sorjaturong shows off his hard-earned hardware (left).

By Sudrudee Saundra Tongpituk

In July 1995, Saman Sorjaturong, the winner in what would be chosen the Fight of the Year, returned to Thailand a hero. Having won the IBF and WBC titles by knocking out light flyweight legend Chiquita Gonzalez at the Great Western Forum, he was greeted by a fanatical crowd of supporters at Don Muang Airport in Bangkok. His country enjoys a rich boxing tradition, but no Thai had previously won a world title in the United States.

This past April, and two weeks after making his seventh defense of the WBC 108-pound crown, Sorjaturong was recognized as the top male professional athlete in Thailand. That his dream has come true is remarkable enough, but when you consider that Sorjaturong, now 27, didn't start to box until age 22, it borders on miraculous.

In Thailand, very few amateur boxers turn professional. Most of the pros come up through the ranks of the national passion, muay thai boxing. In muay thai, a form of kickboxing in which participants are allowed to use feet, knees, and elbows, ceremony and tradition is emphasized as much as the actual combat. Given the number of crossovers from muay thai to boxing, it is not uncommon for a Thai boxer to turn pro in a scheduled 10-rounder or challenge for a world title after less than 10 bouts. Not so with Sorjaturong, who did not fight as an amateur and had no muay thai experience whatsoever.

The son of a poor farmer, Sorjaturong grew up in northeast Thailand, an area that produced all six members of the country's 1996 Olympic team, including its first gold medalist, featherweight Somluck Kamsing, and a bronze medalist, bantamweight Vichai Khadpo. As children, Sorjaturong and Khadpo were classmates. While Khadpo took the amateur route and competed in three Olympics as a member of the Thai air force, Sorjaturong embarked on a letter-writing campaign to trainer Suchart Teeravutchoovong and promoter

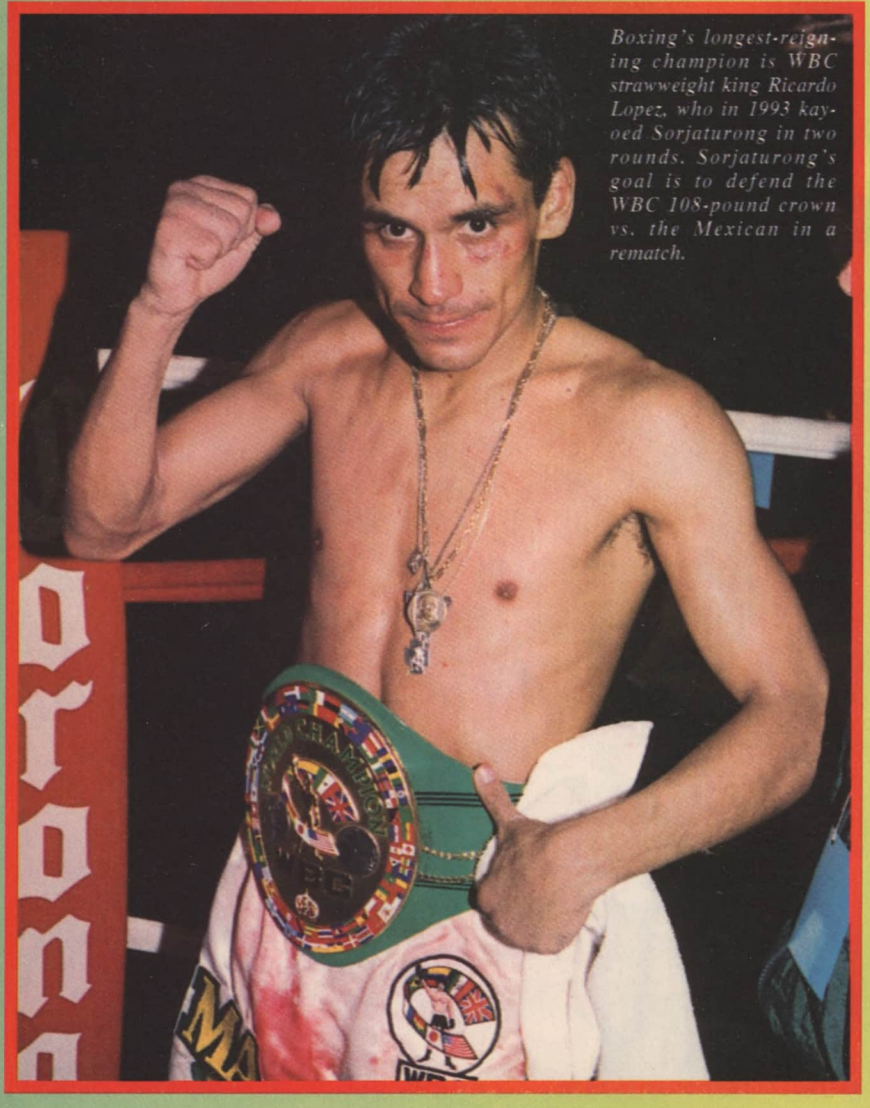
Sahasombhop Srisomvongse at the Chitilada Gym in Bangkok. (The gym is named after former WBC flyweight champion Sot Chitilada, whose name is usually spelled *Chitalada* in the West.)

"He wrote me letters telling me how much he wanted to be a boxer," recalled Teeravutchoovong. "He was persistent, and I finally agreed to let him come to the gym and try out." At first, Sorjaturong showed no special promise, but because of his work ethic, he was allowed to stay on.

Three years into his pro career (in July 1993), Sorjaturong, then 15-1-1, challenged one of boxing's best champions, unbeaten WBC strawweight titlist Ricardo Lopez, in Mexico. A late substitute, the Thai spent one day traveling to Nuevo Laredo and only two days on site, adjusting to the altitude. But his lack of preparation wasn't the biggest problem. "I had no experience," he explained. Fighting at

Photo by John B. Hornewer

In April, Sorjaturong, who keeps a busy schedule, defended the WBC title for the seventh time, halting Colombian substitute Julio Coronell in round seven. The Thai has been fighting every couple of months.



Boxing's longest-reigning champion is WBC strawweight king Ricardo Lopez, who in 1993 kayoed Sorjaturong in two rounds. Sorjaturong's goal is to defend the WBC 108-pound crown vs. the Mexican in a rematch.

home, Lopez took him out in two rounds.

To his credit, Sorjaturong didn't pout. Instead, he returned home and remained committed to his craft. Two years later, and after 11 consecutive wins, he traveled to the Forum and challenged Chiquita, then placed fourth in THE RING's pound-for-pound ratings.

A 17-1 underdog, Sorjaturong landed his big right from the start, and in the second round drove the champion to the floor. Chiquita, a switch-hitting southpaw, gained command after that, dropping the challenger in the fifth and sixth. At the end of the sixth, referee Lou Filippo seemed about to stop the fight when the bell saved Sorjaturong. Returning to his corner, Sorjaturong's left eye was cut and his right eye was swollen shut. The ringside physician, Dr. Adam Karns, generously gave him one more round.

In one of the most amazing turnarounds in title fight history, 58 seconds into the eighth round, Sorjaturong was the new champion. Answering the bell with a sense of urgency, he landed right-hand bomb after bomb, flooring Chiquita, who, according to THE RING's fight report, rose and then "stumbled around the ring like a

(Continued on page 57)

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THE SKINNY ON BOBBY DYKES

What He Did Came Unnaturally

By Pete Ehrmann

"I used to know a guy in San Antonio," says Bobby Dykes, talking about his growing-up years in Texas, "who'd flip a coin to see who punches the next guy walking down the street."

But Dykes, who left home to be on his own when he was 17, never won the toss.

"I was," he recalls, "too skinny, too frail, and too scared."

So guess who went on to have 160 professional boxing matches, fight seven world champions, and miss becoming one himself by only one point.

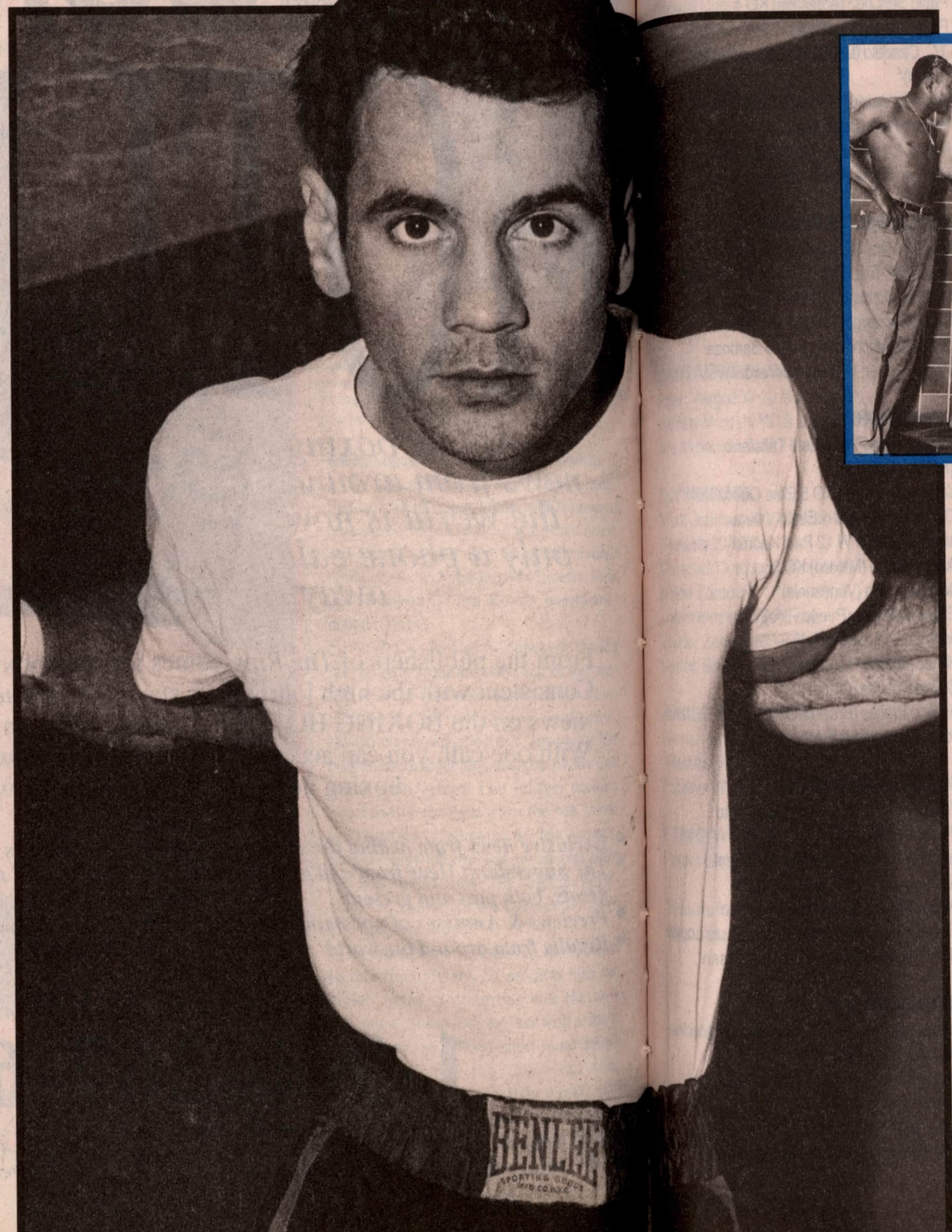
It even sounds improbable now, but back in 1946, it would've sounded totally preposterous to the 6-foot, 128-pound Dykes. He stepped into the ring for the first fight of his career only because he had agreed to a match in a pool hall. He was looking for quick money.

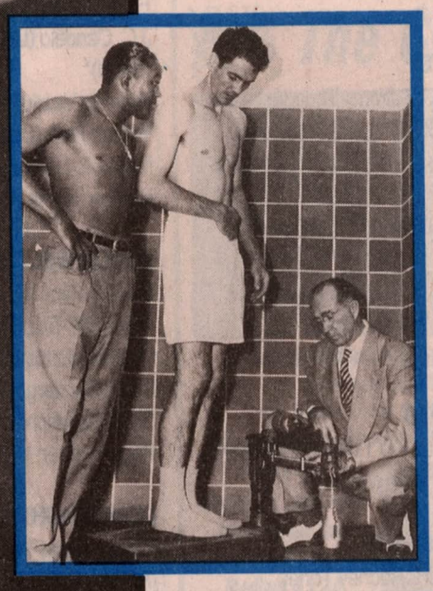
When the bell rang, Dykes remembers, "I shut my eyes and said, 'Get away! Get away!'"

Fortunately, this unique strategy, demonstrated most recently by Bruce Seldon against Mike Tyson, had the opposite result for the stunned Dykes. "The next thing I knew," he says, "the guy was on the ground."

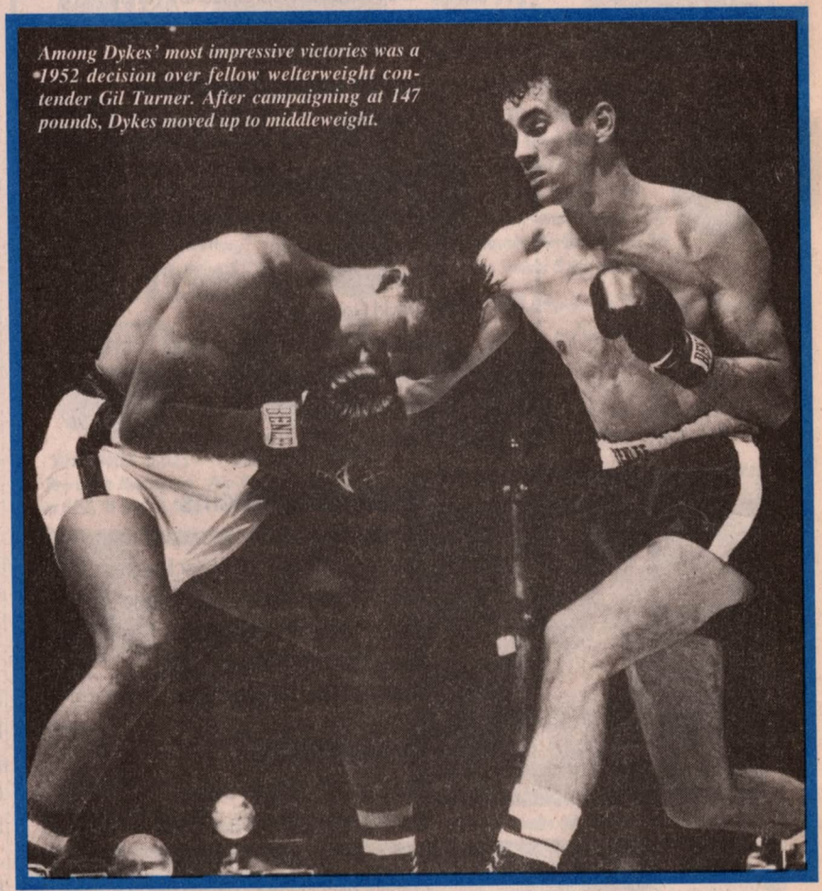
There was an even more pleasant surprise afterward. After all the deductions were made from his purse, Dykes received

(Continued on page 62)





Dykes and welterweight champion Gavilan weigh in for their 1952 title bout in Miami (left), won by "The Keed" on points (above). Dykes gained a measure of revenge by decisioning Gavilan, by then a former champion, at Madison Square Garden in 1955.



Among Dykes' most impressive victories was a 1952 decision over fellow welterweight contender Gil Turner. After campaigning at 147 pounds, Dykes moved up to middleweight.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Maurice Harris KO 7 Jimmy Thunder
Darroll Wilson KO 4 Courage Tshabalala
Jesse Ferguson KO 9 Samson Po'uha
Brian Nielsen W 8 Damon Reed
Darroll Wilson KO 6 Ron McCarthy
Ed Mahone KO 4 Will Hinton
Robert Hawkins KO 10 Melvin Foster
Joe Bugner KO 7 Waisiki Ligaloa
Alonzo Highsmith KO 3 Jim Wisniewski

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Juan Carlos Gomez KO 1 Guy Sonnenberg
Ryan Poletti KO 4 Mike McGrady

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Ole Klemetsen KO 2 Rodney Toney
Frederic Alvarez KO 4 Karl Willis

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Ray Close KO 5 David Pearson

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Ricardo Nunez (Argentina) W 8 Aquilino Asprilla (Panama)*
Danny Garcia (Puerto Rico) W 8 David Gonzales (USA)*
Urbano Gurrola (Mexico) KO 7 Felix Hernandez (Colombia)*
Rogerio Cacciatore (Brazil) W 8 Carlos Ugueto (Venezuela)*

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bronco McKart W 10 Glenwood Brown
Davide Ciarlante KO 9 Javier Martinez
Adrian Dodson KO 3 Victor Fessetchko
Verno Phillips W 12 Gianfranco Rosi
Chris Calvin W 4 Todney Tatum
David Reid KO 6 Robert Koon

WELTERWEIGHTS
Oba Carr W 10 Rocky Balboa
Hector Lopez KO 4 Omar Flores
Santos Cardona KO 7 Sammy Fuentes
Carlos Palomino KO 2 Wilber Garst
Edwin Rosario KO 4 Maurice Robertson
Paulo Sanchez (Argentina) KO 4 Fred Valera (Panama)*
J.C. Candelo (USA) KO 2 Ailton Pessoa (Brazil)*
Wilfredo Vazquez (Puerto Rico) W 8 William Ruiz (Colombia)*
Marco A. Lizarraga (Mexico) W 8 Ramon Zavala (Venezuela)*

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Vince Phillips KO 10 Kostya Tszyu *(Wins IBF Title)*
Charles Murray W 10 Israel Cardona
Soren Sondergaard KO 1 Bob Elkins
Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Jose Barboza
Reggie Green W 8 Paul Denard

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Phillip Holiday W 12 Pete Taliaferro *(Retains IBF Title)*
John-John Molina KO 5 Elias Quiroz
Carlos Gerena KO 4 Efrain Valera
Marco Rudolph W 12 Paul Kaoma
Aaron Zarate (Mexico) KO 8 John Bronson (Venezuela)*
Edwin Vazquez (Puerto Rico) W 8 Jose Zuniga (Colombia)*
Hilario Guzman (Panama) W 8 Carlos Chaves (Argentina)*
Acelino Freitas (Brazil) KO 1 John Montantes (USA)*

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Yong Soo Choi W 12 Koji Matsumoto *(Retains WBA Title)*
John-John Palaki D 10 Miguel Arrozal
Justin Juuko W 12 David Ouma
Diego Corrales KO 2 Javier Pichardo
Takanori Hatakeyama W 10 Jorge Luis Lopez
Floyd Mayweather Jr. KO 1 Tony Duran

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Luisito Espinosa Tech. Dec. 8 Manuel Medina *(Retains WBC Title)*
Orlando Canizales KO 5 Manuel Arrelano
Steve Robinson KO 7 Julio Cesar Sanchez-Leon
Fred Norwood KO 2 Mauricio Martinez

Carlos Navarro KO 6 Jose Vicenteno
Samuel Duran W 12 Singhnum Yamaki Gym
Zahir Raheem W 6 Scotty Buchzeiger
Eduardo Barrios (Colombia) Tech. Dec 7
Gerardo Cabrera (Argentina)*
Luis Claudio Freitas (Brazil) KO 3
Ramon Guzman (Venezuela)*
Moises Cerillos (Mexico) KO 3
Pedro Lopez (Panama)*
Jose Martinez (Puerto Rico) KO 2
Julio Gervacio (USA)*

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Johnny Armour KO 8 Anatoly Kvitko
Spencer Oliver KO 4 Martin Krastev

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Adan Vargas W 10 Max Gomez
Johnny Bredahl KO 8 Laureano Ramirez
Jiro Matsushima KO 7 Joseph Paden

FLYWEIGHTS

Mark Johnson KO 2 Cecilio Espino
(Retains IBF Title)
Chatchai Dutchboy Gym W 12
Isaias Zamudio
(Wins Interim WBC Title)
Jesper Jensen KO 8 Paul Weir
Carlos Salazar W 12 Antonio Ruiz

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Saman Sorjaturong KO 4 Mzukisi Marali
(Retains WBC Title)
Paulino Villalobos KO 4 Morgan Nduma

STRAWWEIGHTS

Rocky Lin W 10 Keisuke Yokoyama

*Results from the quarterfinal round of the eight-nation Boxcino tournament

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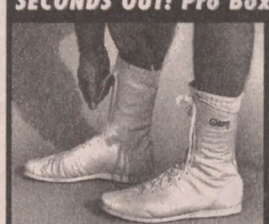

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER of the MONTH

Having just won the IBF junior welterweight title from Kostya Tszyu, Phillips was about to make his way to the postfight press conference when Roy Jones, who had called the fight for HBO, burst into his hometown buddy's dressing room. After a warm embrace, Jones said to Phillips, "During the fight, somebody in the truck kept yelling in my ear, 'Don't just talk about Phillips' punches. Acknowledge Tszyu's punches, too.' And I told him, 'But Tszyu isn't *landing* any punches!"

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

While the fight was hardly a shutout *(see story on page 28)*, Phillips made his punches count, outdueling the heavily favored Tszyu in a battle of right hands. Phillips was supposed to be a steppingstone, with Tszyu headed toward a 1998 showdown with Oscar De La Hoya. Instead, the best Tszyu can hope for is a rematch in his adopted homeland of Australia.

Phillips' victory was not only surprising, but inspirational as well. For years, the longtime contender battled drug problems. "May 16th was my fourth birthday," he said, meaning that he has been clean for four years. "And tonight I'm gonna get drunk—on cranberry juice and pineapple juice."

We'll certainly clink a glass to that.

• • • •

Vince Phillips

Naseem Hamed KO 1 Billy Hardy

Manchester, England: Ruthless and clinical, Hamed wasted little time in proving he and Hardy barely belonged in the same parish, let alone the same ring, dispatching the challenger in summary fashion after 93 seconds at the Nynex Arena. It was The Prince's first defense of the IBF featherweight title he won from Tom Johnson in February.

Hamed wants to become the first fighter to simultaneously hold four belts (IBF, WBA, WBC, and WBO) in the same division. He took this bout only because Hardy was elevated to mandatory challenger by the WBO, of which Hamed is the reigning champion.

A tough man from England's North East, Hardy, 126, twice a challenger to then-bantamweight boss Orlando Canizales, in 1990 and '91, went straight into the teeth of the fire—which played straight into Hamed's destructive hands. Barely a minute had elapsed when Hamed, 126, Sheffield, England, launched a devastating right that contorted Hardy's face into a horrible expression of pain.

"The first shot he hit me with, I honestly felt my nose crack," Hardy, 36-8-2 (17), said afterward. "I'm all numb around my teeth."

When Hardy arose, graphic testimony of his guts, Hamed, a southpaw, finished it brutally, a left-right-left flattening the challenger and giving referee Paul Thomas (England) no alternative but to stop the fight.

The judges were Roy Francis, Dave Parris, and Mickey Vann, all from England.

"I don't only have punching power, I have accuracy, speed, timing, everything," said Hamed, 26-0 (24). "I'm probably the hardest-punching featherweight ever. If I hit a man on the chin, he is going to get knocked out. I don't think anyone can beat me."

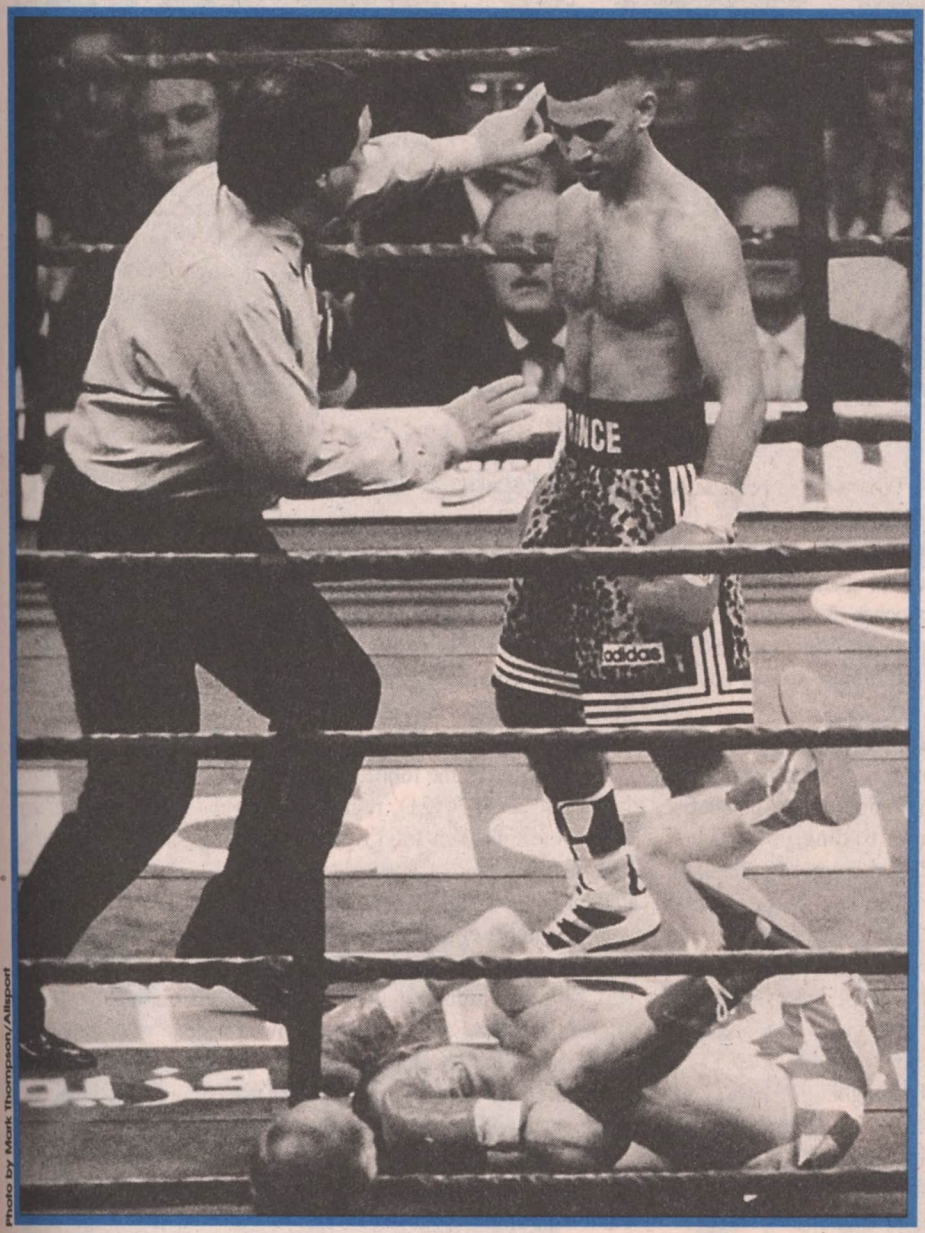

Photo by Mark Thompson/Allsport

Hamed hardly sweated against Hardy

Joe Koizumi, Far East correspondent for THE RING, and manager of WBC featherweight champion Luisito Espinosa (who could be next for Hamed, possibly in the USA on July 19), was suitably impressed.

"Hamed is awesome," he said. "He's such a great puncher, so dangerous."

If Hamed-Espinosa doesn't come off, look for The Prince to go against WBA featherweight champion Wilfredo Vazquez.

Promoter: Frank Warren

(5-3-97)

Brian Doogan

Robin Reid W 12 Henry Wharton

Manchester, England: WBC super middleweight champion Reid took a giant step toward establishing himself as the division's top star by comprehensively outpointing the tough and durable Wharton by majority decision. "The Grim Reaper's" second defense came underneath Hamed-Hardy at Nynex Arena.

Abandoning the reckless style that got the part-time model banged up in his first defense (vs. Giovanni Pretorius), Reid, 166¼, Runcorn, England, elected to box effectively. He covered up against the patented and ferocious hooks of Wharton, 168, York, England, and emerged completely unscathed. His own power shots, however, took a toll, making Wharton a big-time loser in

Photo by John Gichigi/Allsport

Reid beat Wharton inside and out

three domestic championship matchups. Wharton had previously been defeated by Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank.

Reid started well, negating a lot of Wharton's punches by staying on the move and preventing the powerful challenger from teeing off with big shots by firing potent punches of his own. Reid's jab was an effective tool all night long, and he countered everything Wharton threw at him with interest, almost always having the last word in the exchanges.

Wharton, 25-3-1 (19), connected with his big left in the third round, but Reid soaked up the punch well. Action was now becoming more frenetic, with Wharton landing three short lefts, Reid beckoning him forward, and both trading powershots. Wharton took the fifth, but Reid established control in the sixth, pumping out a solid jab.

From the eighth round, Reid, 24-0-1 (18), dominated, boxing on the move and evading almost all of Wharton's attempts to get home with big punches. Reid staggered the challenger in the 10th with a straight right after landing a cracking one-two. A bodyshot almost doubled up Reid in the 11th, but he returned to boxing brilliantly in the final round to make sure of the fight.

Richie Davies (England) scored 118-111, Daniel Van De Wiele (Belgium) 117-113, and Ray Solis (Mexico) 114-114. THE RING had Reid in front by 117-112.

Promoter: Frank Warren

(5-3-97)

Brian Doogan

Luisito Espinosa Tech. Dec. 8 Manuel Medina

Manila, Philippines: Slick counterpuncher Espinosa kept the WBC featherweight title for the fourth time after an unintentional butt ended his defense vs. former titlist Medina before a crowd of more than 20,000 at Luneta Park.

The 29-year-old Espinosa, 125¾, Philippines, started well, effectively jabbing against Medina, 126, Mexico. In taking the first three rounds, Espinosa added occasional rights and triple-hooks. However, Medina, 26, applied pressure throughout and took command in the fourth and fifth.

Espinosa, 41-7 (21), regained control in the sixth, jabbing and connecting with solid right uppercuts to the head and body. The busy but featherfisted Medina, 53-9 (24), again accelerated in the seventh, with Espinosa circling the ring.

The fateful eighth saw Espinosa seemingly score a knockdown with a short hook, but referee Jay Nady (USA) ruled a slip. Midway through the round, the fighters clashed heads, and after examining Espinosa, who showed a deep gash on the left brow, Nady called a halt at the 1:22 mark. According to WBC rules, Medina automatically lost a point, and the cards were summoned.

The technical decision was unanimous, with Chuck Giampa (USA) and Kenjiro Makizumi (Japan) both scoring 78-73, and Tamotsu Tomihara (USA) 77-75.

Espinosa's cut will likely push back a proposed unification bout vs. IBF king Naseem Hamed.

Among those in attendance was the president of the Philippines, Fidel V. Ramos.

Promoter: Joe Koizumi

(5-17-97)

William Joppy W 12 Peter Venancio

Coconut Grove, Florida: Before stepping into the ring to tackle WBA middleweight champion Joppy, Venancio was unproven and virtually unknown. Even his manager, Tutico Zabala, sounded less than optimistic of Venancio's prospects. "He's got a puncher's chance," Zabala said prior to the opening bell.

As it turned out, Venancio surprised by taking the fight to Joppy and forcing the champion to work hard up to the final bell. Joppy, 159, Washington, D.C., prevailed by unanimous decision, thanks largely to two knockdowns of the mandatory challenger. It was Joppy's second defense of the title he captured 11 months ago from Shinji Takehara.

Venancio, 159, Sao Paulo, Brazil, outhustled the champion in the opening round, but Joppy boxed smartly to win the next three stanzas. He won the fourth frame by a 10-8 margin due to a momentary lapse by Venancio. As the Brazilian was moving away from Joppy, he turned his head, and the champion dropped him with a cuffing right to the head.

Many of the subsequent rounds were close, as reflected by the fact that neither fighter swept a stanza until the 10th, 11th, and 12th.

Joppy, who occasionally circled the ring while flashing a most ineffective jab, won the 10th with a second knockdown, this one produced by a counter right to the head. Venancio was legitimately hurt, but he rebounded to win the final two rounds.

Joppy opened the 12th with hooks to the head, but Venancio responded with a right-right uppercut-right combination and did enough to win the round on all three cards. It wasn't enough. Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) scored 115-112, Peter Trematerra (USA) 114-112, and Ove Ovesen (Denmark) 114-113. The referee was Bill Connors (USA).

Joppy, 26, improved to 24-0-1 (19); Venancio is 34-2-1 (26).

"I knew he was tough," Joppy said of Venancio. "I had him early, but he got away from me." Joppy also acknowledged Venancio's power: "He hit me a couple of times to the body and the head that caught my attention."

The 32-year-old Venancio was gracious in defeat. "He's a good champion, and I always look forward to a fight with a good champion," he said. "I hope he can keep it up. He deserves to be a champion."

Venancio was attempting to become the third Brazilian world champion, following Hall of Famer Eder Jofre and Miguel de Oliveira.

The bout was televised by Showtime.

Promoter: Don King Productions

(5-10-97)

Ken Knox

Joppy watches Venancio fall

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

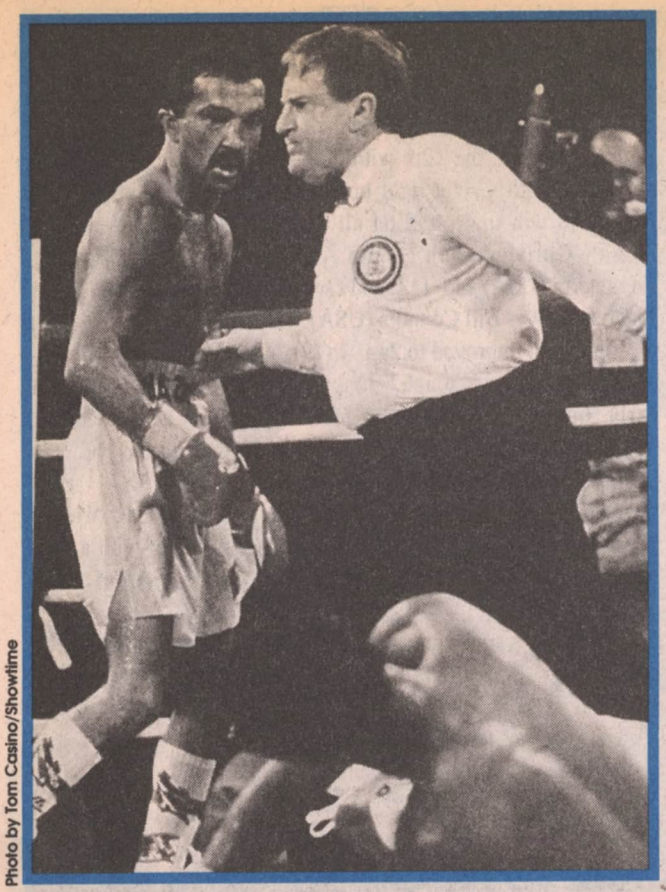

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Nazarov showed no rust vs. Johnson

Orzubek Nazarov TKO 7 Leavander Johnson

Coconut Grove, Florida: Showtime subscribers got to see one good fight (Joppy-Venancio) and one snoozer (Frans Botha's 10th-round stoppage of James Stanton). But they missed the best fight of the night, WBA lightweight champion Nazarov's seventh-round dismantling of mandatory challenger Johnson. It was Nazarov's sixth defense.

Along with possessing a chin of granite, Nazarov, 134, Paris, France via Kant, Russia, is a southpaw who can boast of being one of the strongest punchers in the lighter weight divisions. Two minutes into the opening round, he rocked Johnson, 132, Atlantic City, New Jersey, with a left to the head, then pummelled the challenger with more than a dozen hard lefts and opened a cut over his right eye.

At the start of the second, Nazarov tried to ride the momentum he established in the opening frame. He cracked a couple of straight lefts against Johnson's head, but the American shook off the blows and tried to establish his own offensive with a stiff jab and rights to the body and head. Nazarov responded with counter lefts, but Johnson closed the round by landing solid rights to the head.

The 30-year-old Nazarov was unfazed by Johnson's offerings. Johnson, 27, appeared in control early in the third until Nazarov softened him with a pair of lead rights, then decked him with a left in the middle of the ring. Though up at the count of five, Johnson was clearly hurt.

The lightweights split the next two rounds, but after getting outboxed in the fifth, Nazarov roared back to punish Johnson and drop him twice in the sixth. The second knockdown came at the bell, and followed 19 unanswered blows.

In the seventh, Nazarov wobbled Johnson with a pair of hooks before putting him down with a blistering flurry. Referee Brian Garry (USA) stopped the fight at the 17-second mark as Johnson, 26-2-1 (21), crashed to the canvas for the fourth time. After six rounds, Nazarov, 24-0 (18), was ahead on all three cards. The judges were Ric Bays (USA), Guy Jutras (Canada), and Tommy Thomas (Trinidad).

"I can fight anybody, anywhere, anytime," Nazarov said. "I would even like to fight the winner of the Tyson-Holyfield fight," he added with a laugh.

Promoter: Don King Productions

(5-10-97)

Ken Knox

Antonio Cermeno W 12 Angel Chacon

Coconut Grove, Florida: Approximately three weeks ago, Miami promoter Tuto Zabala and his son Tutico received a telephone call from promoter Don King, who offered Chacon a shot at Cermeno's WBA junior featherweight title.

"We took the fight on short notice," said Tutico, "but we never say no to a title fight." The fight also was an opportunity for the Zabalas and the many Puerto Rican fighters in their stable to gain a measure of revenge against Cermeno, who took the title away from their primary breadwinner, Wilfredo Vazquez. But the title shot came at a price. Chacon, undefeated in 23 fights, reportedly came into training camp weighing 135 pounds, 13 pounds over the junior featherweight limit. He made weight, but struggled to do so, and his fatigue cost him in the late rounds of a fight Cermeno won by unanimous decision.

The southpaw Chacon's plan was to initially work the body of Cermeno, 121½, Miranda, Venezuela, then go to the head in the later rounds. But Cermeno, who was defending the title for the fifth time, used his superior height and reach, as well as a huge ring, to frustrate Chacon, 122, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico.

Chacon, 24, won the initial round by forcing the action, while Cermeno was content to keep his charging foe at a distance and look for openings. Chacon tried hard, but was repeatedly frustrated by Cermeno. When he stayed outside, Cermeno, 28, picked him apart with stinging jabs and one-twos; when the Puerto Rican managed to get inside, Cermeno outworked him and chopped him up with hard rights.

Chacon rallied to win rounds seven and eight, but he visibly tired over the final four frames. He chased Cermeno around the ring, instead of cutting it off, and failed to throw more than one punch at a time when he did catch up with the lanky Venezuelan. Pinid Prayadsab (Thailand) scored 118-111, Guillermo Perez (Panama) 118-112, and Jay Kassees (USA) 116-112. The referee was Armando Garcia (USA). Cermeno improved to 27-1 (16); Chacon slipped to 23-1 (14).

The bad blood between the Cermeno camp and the Zabala camp erupted in the ring after the decision was announced. As Cermeno posed for pictures with his left hand raised by Garcia, Tutico Zabala grabbed the champion's right hand to show it to ringside physician Dr. Allan Fields; Zabala had complained that Cermeno had injected something, possibly a pain-killer, into his

right hand before the bout. Cermeno's manager pushed Zabala, and hangers-on from both sides poured into the ring. The outburst was quickly quelled, and no injuries were reported.

Promoter: Don King Productions

(5-10-97)

Ken Knox

Chatchai Dutchboy Gym W 12 Isaias Zamudio

Bangkok, Thailand: The fast-moving Dutchboy Gym (formerly Chatchai Elite-Gym, and before that, Chatchai Sasakul) seized the WBC interim flyweight title, pounding out a unanimous decision over late-starter Zamudio at the Prince Palace Hotel.

The interim bout took place due to the inactivity of champion Yuri Arbachakov, who has been mending a fractured wrist since last August. Both Dutchboy Gym and Zamudio have suffered losses vs. Arbachakov.

The 27-year-old Dutchboy Gym, 112, Thailand, dominated the first seven rounds, capitalizing on his superior speed of hand and foot. The momentum gradually swung to Zamudio, 111, Blythe, California, who was the aggressor throughout. As the rounds mounted, Zamudio, 28, chased Dutchboy Gym, 29-1 (22), who rode his bicycle to stay out of danger.

Zamudio, 45-6-1 (16), dominated the last two rounds, but it wasn't enough. Malcolm Bulner (Australia) scored 116-112, Bob Logist (Belgium) 118-112, and Ken Morita (Japan) 117-113. Said a frustrated Zamudio, "I came here to fight and not to run." But it was the runner whose hand was raised in victory.

(5-9-97)

Joe Koizumi

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Cermeno punishes a tiring Chacon

Phillip Holiday W 12 Pete Taliaferro

Hammanskraal, South Africa: Making his sixth defense of the IBF lightweight title, Holiday was most unimpressive in scoring a split decision over substitute Taliaferro before a disappointing crowd of 3,000 in a tent on the carpark of the Carousel Gambling Resort.

Taliaferro was summoned when Holiday decided he didn't want to defend against David Sample because of the Californian's southpaw style.

Where was the Holiday who knocked out Jeff Fenech and stunned American fans with his hand speed and unanimously outpointed Ivan Robinson with his work rate? This was not the same fighter, as Holiday only went through the motions. Was this a junior welterweight in a lightweight's body? (Holiday was six pounds over the division limit only four days before the fight.) Had the champion showed a lack of professionalism by getting married and taking time for a honeymoon before such an important fight? Whatever the case, he was fortunate to have saved his August defense against highly touted American Shane Mosley.

The crowd roared when Holiday, 135, Benoni, South Africa, countered the advancing Taliaferro, 135, Mobile, Alabama, midway through the first round with a stiff, short hook to the temple that dropped the challenger to his knees. The joy was short-lived, however, when a hook to the jaw put him flat on his back in the second. Holiday was legitimately hurt, but showing the heart of a true champion, he pulled himself off the canvas and rode out the round.

With his work rate below par, the 26-year-old Holiday, 31-0 (16), still did enough against the cautious, slow-moving Taliaferro, 36-7 (24), to control the middle rounds. Taliaferro, however, appeared stronger in the later rounds, when a decelerating Holiday was content to box and move laterally. The 25-year-old challenger closed the gap on the cards, but it wasn't enough. Pete Podgorski (USA) and Clement Martin (South Africa) both scored for Holiday by 115-111, while Cesar Ramos (Puerto Rico) had Taliaferro ahead by 115-111. The referee was Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa).

It was not vintage Holiday, but he showed character in lasting out 12 rounds under the circumstances.

The bout was televised in the USA on ESPN2.

Promoter: Rodney Berman (Golden Gloves Promotions)

(5-16-97)

Ron Jackson ■

CAMERA CLICKS

Photo by Tom Casino

It's not all sweat and rosin for trainers Tommy Brooks (left) and Don Turner, who seem to be enjoying their locker room meeting with the USA Network's Rhonda Shear.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Don King is always on the lookout for boxing's newest heavyweight sensation. He's now banking on the little-known Freedum, an overweight, myopic clown whose ambition is to spank Butterbean. Go get 'em!

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

A recommendation for heavyweight Andrew Golota: Look at the book, but don't touch the author. At a charity roast of Lou Duva in May, Golota found himself seated next to Victoria Gotti, daughter of the imprisoned godfather.

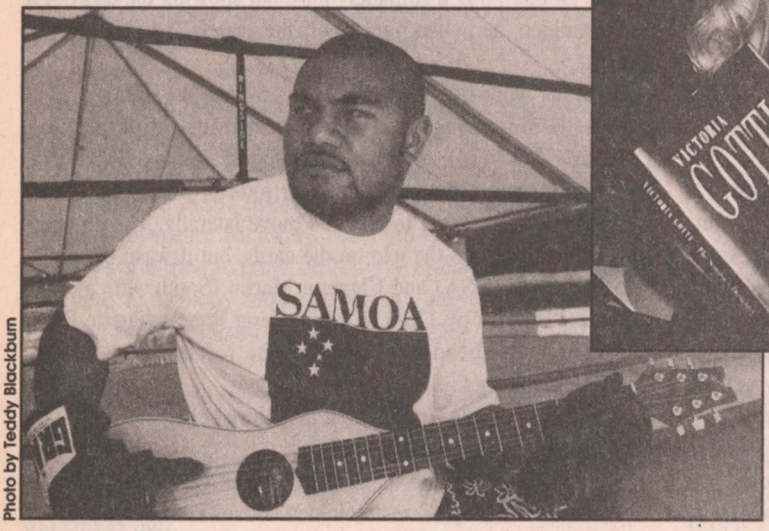

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

You think Jimi Hendrix ever tried this? As powerful as he is, once-beaten contender David Tua may soon be strumming the fate of the world's top heavyweights.

Photo by Mykel Nicolaou

Lots of talent in this gathering of South Africans: (from left) Jake Matlala, Vuyani Bungu, Sugarboy Malinga, and Mbulelo Botile.

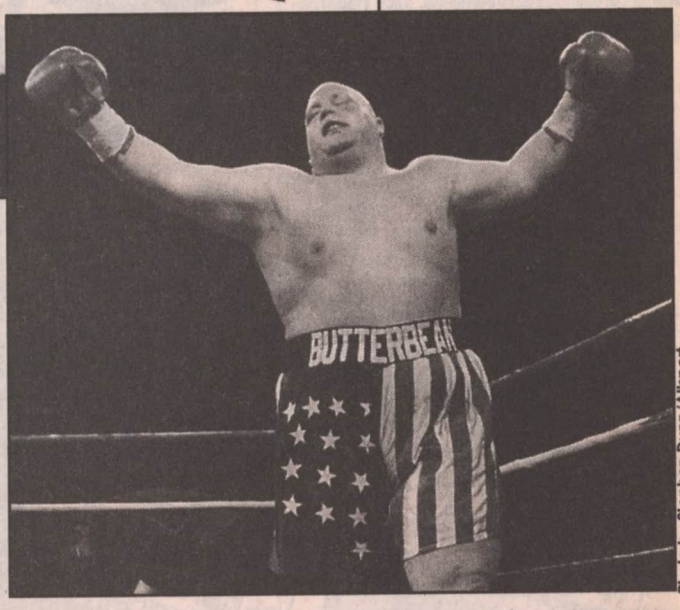

Photo by Stephen Dunn/Allsport

This reminds us of a photo used in one of those you-write-the-caption contests. Well, after a second look, we refuse to write any caption at all.

At a fight card in Las Vegas, former lightweight champion Ray Mancini presented longtime gym owner and cornerman Johnny Tocco with a plaque proclaiming him "The Godfather Of Boxing."

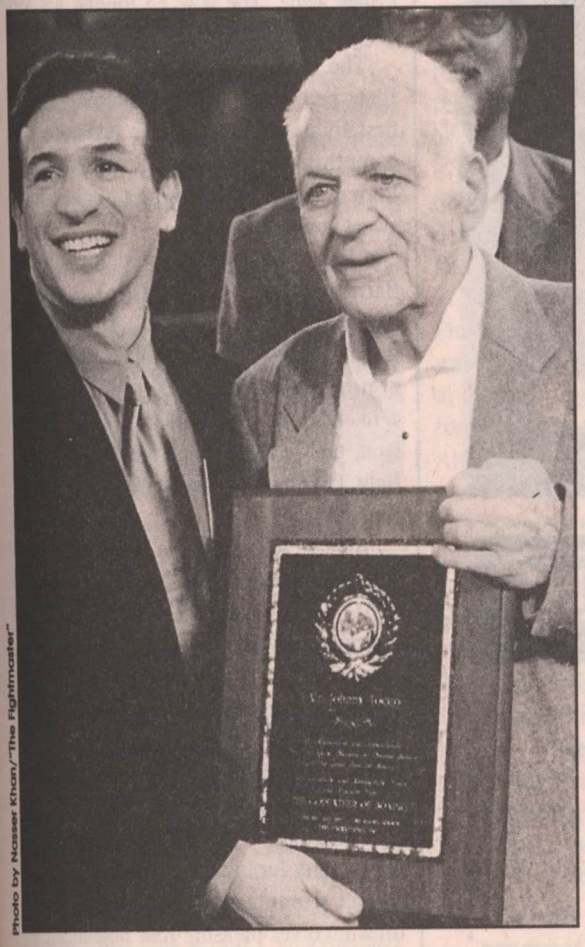

Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Fighters' diets have changed over the years. Light heavyweight champion Joey Maxim seems eager to indulge in some juicy red meat—and this was for breakfast!

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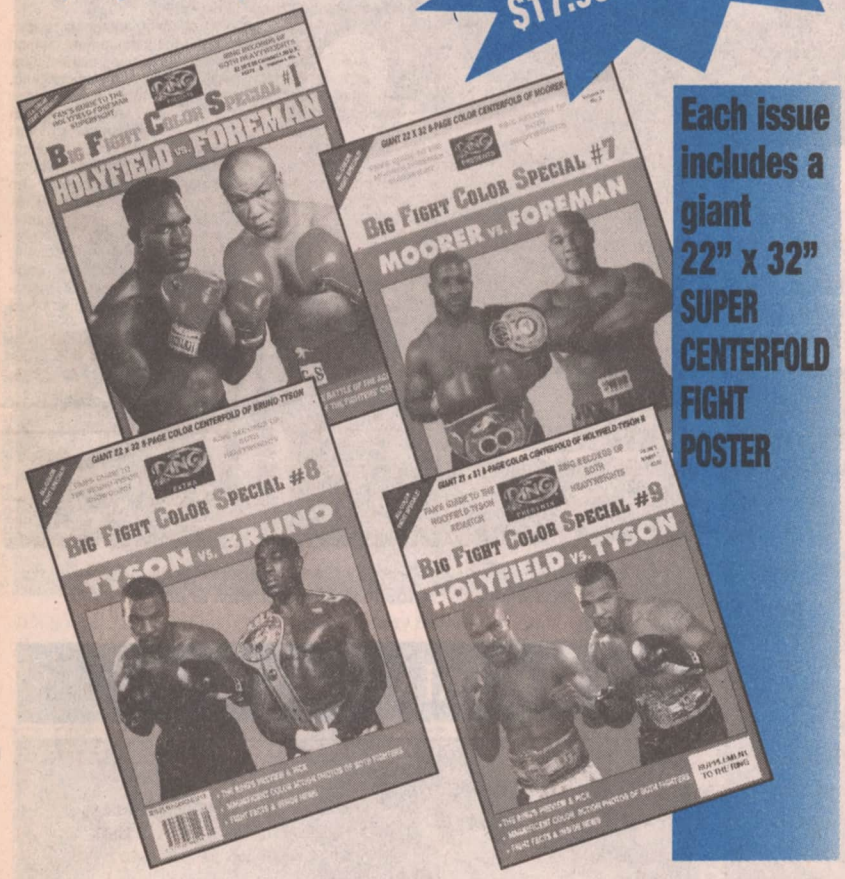

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Naseem Hamed

(Continued from page 39)

doing. All those moves are practiced. I train three times a day, seven days a week."

As he was devising a style, he said, he watched mostly Mexican and American boxers. "But I wanted to be unique," he explained. "Totally unpredictable. That's the way I fight." He paid tribute to his Irish trainer, Brendan Ingle, who taught him the basics, but also went along with moves that would drive other trainers to Maalox.

Larkin noted that the awkward style of Hamed, who stands only 5'3", nullifies his lack of height and reach. Also, the Prince has Tyson-like, tree-trunk legs, which help generate his knockout power. "I saw him knock a guy out going backwards and on one foot," Larkin recalled.

Hamed's unorthodox moves are patterned to some extent after the style of Muhammed Ali, who also could punch going backward. "Ali is my ideal," the Prince said. "The way he fought, his gift of gab, everything."

The Prince was ringside when Junior Jones beat Marco Antonio Barrera in their first fight and believes his presence had something to do with it. At the time, Barrera and Hamed were set to meet for a sweet double-payday.

"His manager pointed me out to Barrera before the fight," Hamed recalled. "What a silly thing to do. As soon as I saw his face ... I think I might have made him nervous—my presence, I mean. I wanted Barrera bad. I know I would have won, and it would have been such a big fight. Obviously, now I would like to fight Junior Jones."

Hamed, whose goal is to win the WBC and WBA titles while hanging on to the WBO and IBF belts, made a point of praising the WBO, whose champions The Ring does not recognize. "It's one of the best belts to get, and one of the best organizations," he contended. "Sure, my IBF belt is great to have, but I owe the WBO special respect. I will always know and remember which organization gave me the opportunity for my first world title."

But winning and hanging on to four titles involves pleasing four bureaucracies

with four agendas. No one has ever managed it. Said Larkin, "What's happening now is that all these sanctioning organizations are paying attention to the courts and applying the same rules to everybody. So the curse of being a unified champ is putting up with all those mandatory bouts."

After a while, the Prince invited us up to his suite and provided us with non-alcoholic refreshments. A practicing Muslim, he noted he does "not take alcohol." An avid fight fan, he spoke admiringly of other fighters he liked to watch, such as Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, Felix Trinidad, and Oscar De La Hoya. As the afternoon wore on, it was clear he would not make it to the beach this day.

Before we left, he proudly put on a videotape. No, it wasn't a fight. It commemorated a moment two days earlier, when he'd visited the Magic Mountain amusement park near Los Angeles and taken a ride on a monstrous apparatus called the Dive Devil. The tape showed the Prince strapped into a sling harness that held his body horizontally as he was hoisted 173 feet into the air, dropped him like a rock, then left him swinging in an immense arc. And he did this sober.

"You know what?" he said. "I went on it twice." And there it was, the bottom-line explanation for his following. The Prince is just a gutsy kid having fun. And it shows. ■

Ivan Goldman is The Ring's correspondent for Southern California.

Saman Sorjaturong

(Continued from page 42)

marmoset shot by a tranquilizer dart."

When Filippo rescued the champion, Sorjaturong felt mixed emotions. "Winning the titles made me feel good," he said, "but I was sad to have beaten my hero."

Those who expected Chiquita to secure a quick rematch and gain a lasting revenge are still waiting. The Mexican hasn't fought since, and retired last year. Meanwhile, Sorjaturong, ranked first by THE RING at junior flyweight, has been defending the title almost every two months. "The Thai people," he explained, "like to see me fight."

Sorjaturong's seventh defense came in April vs. substitute Julio Coronell in Chaiyaphum. In Thailand, the fights are free, and more than 10,000 fans came to Chaiyaphum Stadium, waving Thai flags, wearing items supplied by the sponsors, and cheering the champion's every punch.

Colombia's Coronell had given then-IBF champion Michael Carbajal a tough fight in 1996, and before facing Sorjaturong, he said the Thai was "not as strong as he appears to be." After 45 minutes of ceremonies featuring an array of sponsors, Sorjaturong answered Coronell by knocking him down in the first round. Coronell rebounded in the second, but Sorjaturong was far too strong, and he dominated the remainder of the fight with a blistering attack that included debilitating bodypunches.

While he'll never be termed a stylist, Sorjaturong overcomes any technical deficiencies with sheer willpower and grit. As the blazing sun set behind the stands, Coronell began to wilt, and in the seventh, a huge overhand right dumped him in the champion's corner. As the Colombian struggled to his feet, referee Frank Cappuccino waved the fight off. The fans screamed wildly, and the stadium instantly became a sea of waving flags.

There would be little time to celebrate; Sorjaturong, 35-2-1 (28), made his eighth defense in May, scoring a fourth-round knockout of Mzukisi Marali.

Sorjaturong now lives in Kamphaeng Phet, a town in Northern Thailand that was built in the 14th century. When he's in training, which is most of the time, he lives in Bangkok with Srisomvongse. American fans who were thrilled by his shootout with Chiquita would like to see him again. But like featherweight sensation Naseem Hamed in England, he is content to stay at home. He married his longtime sweetheart in January, and with his purses averaging between $150,000 and $200,000, there's little reason to dust off his passport. His income is eye-opening in a country where it is common for workers to earn less than two dollars a day.

Sorjaturong's dream match is a return with Lopez, "at 108 pounds, for *my* title, and in Thailand. I fought him for his title in his country, he should fight me for my

(Continued on page 58)

"The total effect is a
★ KNOCKOUT." ★
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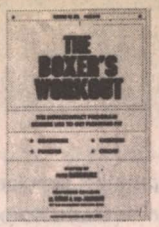

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Saman Sorjaturong

(Continued from page 57)

title in mine."

To understand Sorjaturong's popularity in his homeland—the demand among cities to host his bouts is overwhelming—it is important to understand the Thais. Sorjaturong is hailed as a conquering hero not only because he knocked out Chiquita and continues to thrill fans with his big-punching style. More importantly, this unlikely success story remains a man of dignity and humility, and a champion of whom his people can be most proud. ■

Sudrudee Saundra Tongpituk is a freelance writer based in Gurnee, Illinois.

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

dleweight has come a long way in just 23 outings. That's why they call him "The Natural."

Barr, 23, insists it's quality that counts, not quantity. He was 18 when he started boxing in his hometown of Andros, but spent plenty of time in the ring, sparring with his cousins Ernie and Sammy Barr, both of whom were pro fighters.

"They were veteran fighters, experienced," Barr said. "I learned from them."

What he learned from his cousins was to move forward and throw punches. What he learned from Canton was to play the angles, fire a combination or two, jab, stay balanced, and use his flexibility to his advantage. To Canton's credit, he's paired Barr with a different style boxer every time out: wild punchers, experienced fighters (some of whom were not above a dirty trick or two), and left-handers. That way, when Barr finally gets his break, which Canton said is no more than a year away, he'll have seen everything.

"Freeman's improved something each fight. Some fighters have all the talent and no desire," Canton said. "Others have all the desire and no ability. But when you have the talent and the desire and the willingness to work, that's rare."

Canton caught a glimpse of Barr's desire the day the manager painted the words "SJC Boxing Club" on the building's window in 1995. Barr asked Canton to add the words "Home of Champions."

"He has that much confidence in himself," said Canton.

Barr was still living in the Bahamas when he turned pro in February '93. A bout had fallen through on a local card, and Barr, while working out at the neighborhood gym, was asked if he could go six rounds. He said he could, even though he'd never fought more than three. It didn't matter; Barr stopped Jimmy Sutton by second-round TKO. He fought twice more in the Bahamas, but felt his chances of winning a world title required a change of address. Through promoter and matchmaker Tommy Torino, he hooked up with Canton and moved to Naples, Florida, 40 miles south of Canton's gym in Fort Myers.

Barr had no car at the time and was able to find a ride to the gym only twice a week. The other days, he took his gloves to the beach and worked out with his friend Craig Pratt.

"He weighed only 120 pounds, so we couldn't spar," Barr said. "I had to let him hit me just to learn to slip punches."

Barr returned to the Bahamas and won his fourth pro fight, a six-round decision over Glenn Major. It was a particularly significant win: He was able to buy a car with his earnings.

Barr's other 10 bouts were in Florida, where he's earned a small but loyal following in the southwest part of the state. His fans pack the Charlotte County Memorial Auditorium in Punta Gorda whenever he headlines, turning the small facility into what they call "The Barr Room."

"Every fight is a test for me," Barr said. "That's what I tell the guys in the gym. They've been fighting longer than me, but I tell them the only way to move ahead is to take tough fights. That's the only way."

Barr's only loss was an eighth-round TKO to Rito Ruvalcaba last November. Canton was surprised to see Barr wear down so quickly, especially after the prospect won the first four rounds. It wasn't until after the bout that Canton learned Barr had fought with a temperature of 102.

Said Canton, "I asked him why he fought if he was so sick. He said, 'If I only fought when I wasn't sick or hurt, I'd have only one fight.'"

"That had my legs weak," Barr said. "I thought I could still go in and win the fight, but I ran out of gas. I didn't know what I was doing in the ring. I wasn't focused."

Barr's focused now. As far as he's concerned, the IBC Americas belt he won by stopping Andres Arellano is great, but nothing to settle for. "I don't consider myself a champion until I hold one of those major championships," he said. "That's my dream, to be a world champion."

Barr once sparred with Hector Camacho, and while he would love to fight "The Macho Man," he isn't going to wait by the phone. "He's looking for a big-money fight," Barr said, "so he don't want to fight me. But I'm looking for a name. I'm hoping one of those big-time fighters will smile on me and underestimate me and give me a chance. Then I'll surprise them." ■

Roger Mooney is the assistant sports editor of the Charlotte Sun Herald in Port Charlotte, Florida.

Riddick Bowe

(Continued from page 27)

up. But I don't think we really did ever come close."

As for Bowe-Lewis, there should have been no excuses, though over the years both sides managed to come up with their share. The fight was a natural; Lewis had stopped Bowe in the gold medal match at the 1988 Olympics. But after Bowe literally trashed the WBC belt, Lewis was named champion, and instead of settling matters with their fists, they took the cowardly route, conducting a long-distance war of words.

"That fight was actually made and signed," said Newman. "[Attorney] Milt Chwasky, me, and my wife went to London in early-June '94 and signed a deal that Bowe would fight Lennox [then WBC champion] after Lennox beat Oliver McCall. Lennox paid Riddick the ultimate backhanded compliment by losing to McCall."

Who knows: If Holyfield and Tyson can fight six years after they were first

matched, maybe Bowe, should he return, can still salvage matches against Tyson and/or Lewis. If that happens, it'll probably turn out to be a case of better never than late.

Let's look at who Bowe *did* fight and what he accomplished. His road to the title was the one most often taken, with his first 31 bouts being victories against a predictable mix of no-hopers and fringe contenders. The first of his three biggest pre-title wins was a narrow—and unimpressive—decision over Tony Tubbs. The second, a first-round kayo of Bruce Seldon, lost much of its significance after "Braveheart Bruce's" surrender to Tyson. The third, a stoppage of South Africa's Pierre Coetzer, suggested Bowe was indeed ready for a shot at then-champion Holyfield.

Coming relatively early in Bowe's career, the first Holyfield fight created unrealistic expectations. After that utterly brilliant 12-round performance, we thirsted for more magic. But before anyone could bottle the spirit and type out a label of contents, it evaporated. Bowe's first two title challengers, Michael Dokes and Jesse Ferguson, went quickly and quietly, not because Bowe had combined the skills of Joe Louis and Muhammad Ali, but rather because the former was a bloated has-been and the latter only an earnest workman. Then came the Holyfield rematch, and, like Fan Man, Bowe was never the same.

It didn't seem to matter that with a point or two changing sides, Bowe would have again decisioned his rival. Having beaten "The Real Deal" at 235 pounds, Bowe, reducing from 285, scaled a career-high 246 for the rematch. An eye-opening win for Holyfield? Undoubtedly. But with 46 of 48 writers having picked Bowe to win, the postfight focus centered on Big Daddy's failure to have closed the refrigerator.

A nine-month layoff followed, something a fighter of Bowe's mental and physical makeup couldn't afford. "If Riddick Bowe would've fought eight times a year, he'd still be the heavyweight champion, he'd be considered today's greatest fighter, and he'd be Hall of Fame-bound," said boxing judge and HBO analyst Harold Lederman. "What killed him was inactivity. Inactivity and added weight are related. I think Eddie Futch was the only one who saw that Riddick needed to fight often."

When Bowe returned, he did fight often, facing four undefeated heavyweights over a 10-month stretch. Buster Mathis Jr. (No-Contest 4), Larry Donald (W 12), Herbie Hide (KO 6), and Jorge Luis Gonzalez (KO 6) were a combined 79-0. As it turned out, the emotionally charged Gonzalez fight was the last time Bowe looked special. He followed with an off-the-floor kayo of a seemingly shot Holyfield, then engaged in his two foulfests with Golota, who outfought him in virtually all of their 16 rounds of anything-goes combat.

After admittedly underestimating Golota the first time, Bowe asked himself a question, then found himself desperate for an answer: *If I get in top shape, do I still have the stuff?*

"I saw him work out for Golota II, and he was working like a horse," said Lederman. "We had a *Boxing After Dark* show in Atlantic City that we wanted him to appear on. He was staying in Atlantic City, but he refused to break training because he would have had to come on after 11 p.m. There was no Judy [Bowe's wife] in camp, no kids, nothing. When he weighed in at 235, everybody went 'Wow!' But because of his pride, I think he probably overtrained."

Indeed, Bowe looked thin and drawn in the rematch, and that he remained upright through all of Golota's punches, low and otherwise, was a testament to his oft-overlooked courage. The fight gave Bowe the answer to his question. If the stuff wasn't gone, it was going fast.

A comeback will be accompanied by some heavy-duty rationalization. Bowe will have to convince himself that while he couldn't outfight that big, bad, ugly Golota, he can still beat the other guys. But if he wants to be honest with his fans and himself, he'll admit that even with millions of dollars in the bank, he can't buy off boredom.

While we'd prefer to see Bowe helping fourth-graders cross the street, another fight, or two, or 10, is likely, if not inevitable. Just remember, Big Daddy already had his shot at greatness. And the fighter who couldn't pass up a meal just wasn't hungry enough. ■

Phillips-Tszyu

(Continued from page 31)

expected was turning into the toughest bout in his career. Midway through the third round, Tszyu landed a crushing right to the head, but Phillips fired back with a one-two and clinched.

"I kept my composure," Phillips said. "I threw a quick flurry and clinched to clear my head. It was the only time in the fight he really tagged me. But I don't think he knew I was hurt."

It was in the third that Phillips committed to working the champion's midsection. He had set up his body attack with rights to the head. This forced Tszyu to raise his guard, which exposed the real target. Although sweeping rights to Tszyu's left side landed with regularity, it would take several rounds before the debilitating effect would be felt.

Tszyu took the fourth round, scoring with short, hard punches on the inside. During the minute's rest, Phillips was chastised by his corner for getting lazy. It was in the fifth that the momentum began to change. The challenger picked up the pace and forced the champion on the defensive. It gave Tszyu a rare chance to showcase his defensive skills, and his demonstration included some hot-dogging.

The sixth saw more offense from both fighters, but Tszyu's hooks and overhand rights were losing their steam. A hard right near the end of the round opened a cut over the champion's left eye.

"From the fifth round on I felt I was in control," Phillips said. "I was very comfortable in there. I was aware of what Tszyu was capable of, and that kept me focused."

His instincts paid off in the seventh, when Phillips' right found its target above and below Tszyu's left-hand guard. He landed a flush overhand right at the two-minute mark, a sign of things to come.

But Tszyu was not just waiting for Phillips to take the title. He answered with a string of punches, set up by hard jabs. Had he used such an approach from the start, he wouldn't have been moments away from being dropped.

With 25 seconds remaining in the round, the challenger nailed Tszyu with a hook and immediately followed with an

(Continued on page 61)

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Phillips-Tszyu

(Continued from page 59)

overhand right that sent him to the canvas. If Tszyu was shocked by his predicament, he wasn't showing it. Appearing to be fine, he sprung to his feet and smiled at Phillips' corner.

"It came naturally," Phillips said of the knockdown. "But I didn't get excited. I just went back to business."

Between rounds, the soft-spoken Lewis told Tszyu to jab more and keep his guard higher. A determined champion came out and tried to retake command, but while Tszyu scored with powerpunches in the eighth and ninth, Phillips landed more often. Both men sustained cuts over their right eyes in the ninth frame.

Although Tszyu was now bleeding over both eyes, neither wound hampered his vision. Conversely, Phillips' injury, caused by a wicked left hook midway through the round, bled profusely and prompted the referee to stop the action and have the cut examined.

Between the ninth and 10th, Adams told Phillips to keep his distance and fight smart. His opening came a minute into the 10th at center ring, where he landed a crunching right, set up by a bodypunch, that buckled Tszyu's legs and sent him backpedaling to the ropes. Phillips followed and scored with several hard shots. The champion, clearly in trouble, escaped and retreated to his left, but another hard right sent him into the ropes near his corner. A hard left-right followed by a right uppercut and two more rights to the head sent the defenseless Tszyu sideways, and Estevez wisely stopped the bout at the 1:40 mark.

At the time of the stoppage, the verdict hung in the balance. Through nine rounds, Desmond Bloyd (Australia) scored 87-85 for Phillips, Melvina Lathan (USA) 86-85 for Tszyu, and Deborah Barnes (USA) 85-85. THE RING had Phillips in front by 87-83. The folly of the judges' cards is best illustrated by their scoring of the seventh round, during which Phillips dropped Tszyu. Barnes scored the stanza 10-8 for Phillips, Lathan 10-9 for Phillips, and Bloyd 10-10. The same page? These judges weren't in the same library.

The peculiar scoring aside, it was an exciting ending to a thrilling championship bout. Phillips' manager, Akbar Muhammad, carried his elated fighter around the ring. This has become almost a routine postfight practice, but this celebration had a more genuine feel to it.

"I had a vision months ago that I was going to win a red championship belt [the IBF belt is red, the WBC's green, and the WBA's black], and that someone was going to carry me on their shoulders," said Phillips. "And that was before I signed for this fight and had Akbar as my manager."

The new champion has yet to have any visions regarding the length of his reign or whether he'll someday secure a mega-payday against De La Hoya. But he already knows he'll secure his largest purse in his first defense. Several days after the bout, the IBF agreed to sanction an immediate rematch, tentatively scheduled for October in Australia.

"I'll go wherever they pay the most," the new champion said. "I'm not going to give this title away easily."

Nor does the vanquished Tszyu expect an easy task in reclaiming his diadem. "Vince fought a good fight," Tszyu said. "I compliment him. I'll have to do better next time." His positive attitude and graciousness pleased his camp.

"Kostya was in good spirits after the fight," Lewis said. "Some fighters are devastated by a loss. He knows he didn't do what he was capable of. Let's be realistic. He fought Vince's fight. This fight was it for Phillips, and he said as much beforehand. You can't deny a man when he's that determined. Kostya knows he'll have to make adjustments—which he can do—and beat Vince the next time."

Countered Adams, "Vince has Tszyu's number. We don't know what this fight took out of [Tszyu] mentally. Vince has taken on bigger guys, and he handled Tszyu. Kostya has to respect that."

Now that the rematch is all but set, the boxing world anxiously awaits the answers to a handful of questions. Was Phillips' win a fluke? Did he catch an overconfident champion at the right time? Was Tszyu an overhyped, undermatched fighter? Can he rebound from a knockout loss and regain his momentum?

For either man, or perhaps even both, the return bout will be a defining moment. And this time, there will be no expectations regarding the outcome. ■

Ed Maloney is a former associate editor of The Ring.

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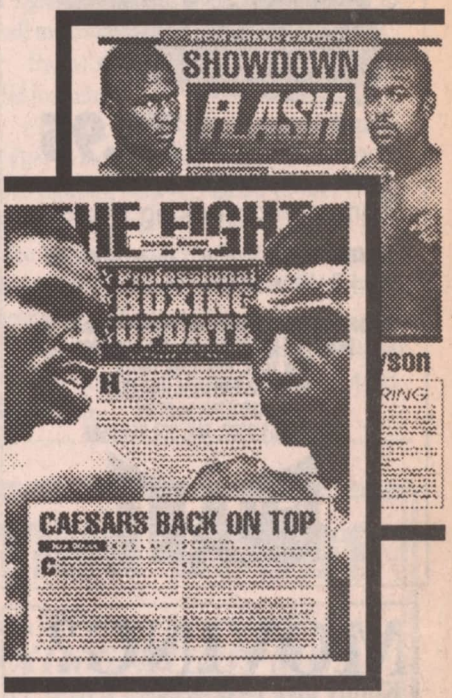

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Bobby Dykes

(Continued from page 45)

a grand total of $22. "Jesus," he said to his handler, "what an easy $22 that was! Get me another fight!" A career was launched.

While for Dykes, the fear eventually melted down to a manageable feeling of being "a little hyper inside," in those early days it swept through audiences at his fights like a wave. This happened as soon as the lanky Texan took off his robe in the ring. "Some of them would yell, 'There ought to be a law! He's gonna get killed!' Dykes recalls.

Instead, he won 20 bouts in a row, thanks mostly to a style predicated on Dykes' preference for hitting and not getting hit in return. "I decided early on that if I gotta hit [the other guy] and then let him hit me, I wasn't gonna fight," he says. So he learned the increasingly lost art of self-defense—feinting, slipping, and blocking punches—and built his offense around a long left jab. "My first 30 fights, I didn't even get a black eye," says Dykes.

The native San Antonian moved to Miami in early-'48. "They used to send me from San Antonio to Miami to fight a lot," explains Dykes. "I'd drive the 1,500 miles, and would pull over on the highway and do my roadwork. Then, to save on expenses, I used to hitchhike, and finally I decided I couldn't waste five days on the road hitching and moved here. I liked the sunshine, ocean, and temperature."

A welterweight by then, Dykes' good looks and good-looking boxing style made him an immediate favorite with Florida fans. He fought every month, sometimes more often, and made his first national splash in April 1949, when he went to Detroit and handed world-ranked contender Lester Felton his first loss in 30 fights, winning the decision in Felton's hometown.

But unlike today, back then there was no such thing as overnight fame in boxing, as Dykes found out when he made his New York debut in March 1950, against tough Lou Valles. For one thing, even though he was already a four-year veteran of almost 60 bouts, it was only an eight-round semi-windup. For another, Valles was winning the fight until Dykes knocked him down and won by sixth-round TKO. And then, *The New York Times*, in its report of the card, identified him as *Roger* Dykes.

They got it right when Dykes returned to reverse a previous decision loss to Frankie Abrams by knocking him out in the sixth round on the undercard of the Jake LaMotta-Tiberio Mitri middleweight title fight in July.

The welterweight champion at the time (also then recognized in Pennsylvania as the 160-pound champion) was Sugar Ray Robinson, who met Dykes in a 10-round non-title match at Chicago Stadium in November 1950. In his 10-year professional career till then, the boxer many consider the greatest to ever don gloves had lost only *one* of 117 bouts (including two draws), a decision to LaMotta seven years earlier.

It was enough to bring back old feelings for Dykes.

"Jesus Christ, I was scared to death," he says. "The fight was televised, and the money was right. I did the best I could."

At least one judge thought it was enough to merit a draw. But the other two votes went to the champion by identical margins of 58-42. Dykes doesn't quarrel with their math. "He won the fight," he says. "In those days you couldn't beat Sugar Ray Robinson. He was the best I ever fought."

After two quick kayo wins, Dykes headed back to Chicago in early-'51 to fight the man who would succeed Robinson as welterweight champion after Sugar Ray gave up that title to fight full-time as a middleweight.

Johnny Bratton, says Dykes, "was a tremendous fighter who could knock out a house if he hit it." In the first round, Dykes threw a long jab and Bratton came over it with a wrecking-ball right hand. "BANG!—and they counted 10," Dykes says matter of factly of his only kayo defeat.

But the transplanted Floridian rebounded with 15 straight wins, beating such contenders as Sonny Horne, Ernie (The Rock) Durando, and Joey Giardello, to earn a title fight in Miami against Kid Gavilan in February 1952.

"The Cuban Hawk," as the flashy, bolo-punching Gavilan was called, had beaten Bratton for the title the previous May, and hadn't lost a fight in almost two years. He was the 11-5 favorite, and in a prefight statement, Dykes didn't sound too sure about his chances. "I don't think Gavilan can knock me out, but that's what I thought about Johnny Bratton," he said. "Gavilan

may get me or I may get him. If any fighter is hit right, he's going to go."

It was a historic fight, the first time a black man and a white man had ever been allowed to box one another in a Florida ring. "They thought there might be trouble with protesters, maybe riots, so they had a lot of guards around," Dykes recalls.

But the only thing protested by the crowd of 17,000 at Miami Stadium was the split decision in favor of Gavilan after what the headlines called "15 thrilling rounds."

Dykes was floored two minutes into the second round. The champion caught him with a right to the jaw, and Dykes was down for a nine-count. Judge Mark Erwin scored that round 10-7 for Gavilan, which, as it turned out, saved the title for him. At the end of the fight in which Dykes rallied behind a persistent jab, Erwin, a Miamian, voted for Gavilan 142-141. Referee Eddie Coachman scored for Dykes by 143-140, and judge Ladislao Nodorse, of Havana, scored for Gavilan by 145-139.

Interestingly, had the bout been decided on a rounds basis, and not on points, the championship would have gone to Dykes, who was favored 9-5-1 by Coachman and 8-6-1 by Erwin. The Cuban judge scored 8-5-2 for Gavilan.

Under the circumstances, Dykes might have been entitled to do some Texas-sized ranting about injustice and myopic boxing judges. But when he looks back at the biggest night of his ring career, he considers himself very lucky. "It was close," he says. "I don't know whether I won or not. I was glad to get out alive, to tell you the truth. I went 15 rounds without getting my head knocked off."

At any rate, the fight reports granted Dykes "stature in defeat," and over the next two years he enhanced it with victories over top welterweights and middleweights like Gil Turner, Joe Miceli, and Cisco Saenz. Into 1955, he was a fixture among the world's top-ranked 160-pounders, and in March of that year, he squared matters with Gavilan by winning a decision over the then-former welterweight champion.

Today, there are so many "world champions" in so many weight classes that you could almost flip a coin to see who punches the next one coming down the street. But in the '50s, there were only eight belts to be had, and Dykes never got another crack at one, so he decided to call it a career. "I just got tired of it," he explains. "It's a drag, training all the time. You've got to leave the girls alone."

The man who'd started fighting to make a quick buck made quite a few of them. But like so many boxers, Dykes admits, "I spent it all on good living and stuff like that." When it was time to get on with the rest of his life, Dykes went to school for a year to learn the insurance business and then opened his own very successful agency in Miami.

A couple years ago he left the insurance business and now spends all his time operating the Tiger Tail Lounge on Tiger Tail Avenue (in Coconut Grove), which he has owned for the last 20 years. A lot of older customers remember Dykes from his boxing days, and younger ones look at his picture on the wall with Robinson and Gavilan and ask the 68-year-old proprietor, "Hey, is this *you*, Bobby?" They'd better not get too smart, since the former contender still does daily roadwork and punches the bag. Not long ago, Gavilan himself came by. They've been good friends since they stopped hitting each other.

Like a lot of other ring alumni who often fought more in one year than some current boxers do in their whole careers, Dykes is mystified by the sport today. "There's not too much to follow," he says. "There are no fighters around, no fights, no clubs. If I had a fighter today, I wouldn't know where the hell to go."

But he's forever grateful for what boxing did for him.

"Boxing is bad to a lot of guys," he says. "They wind up punch-drunk or something. But fighting was very good to me. I went to the 10th grade in school. Now I've got a nice big boat out behind my house. I'm not doing too bad, and I haven't even had a headache in the last 10 years." ■

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in West Allis, Wisconsin.

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FISKE ON FIGHTS

By Jack Fiske

A blow-by-blow announcer and an analyst recently posed the question, "Why do so many old fighters these days continue to come back?"

Not to sound disrespectful or smart-alecky, but here's the answer: It's the money, stupid!

With six- and seven-figure paydays common nowadays, a name performer long beyond his prime can command big bucks, whether matched against a no-name or serving as a foil for a young wannabe. And in the process, he gives a cable network or a pay-per-view promoter a large, guaranteed audience.

That's why Larry Holmes, who frequently boasts of being the wealthiest citizen of Easton, Pennsylvania, can't retire gracefully. When the promoters show him the money, he keeps coming back for more.

A partial list of long-ago world champions who have returned to the ring: Buster Douglas and Ray Leonard (both of whom claim extensive financial holdings), Carlos Palomino, Tony Lopez, Saoul Mamby, and Alexis Arguello.

Then there are the former heavyweight champions who wait by the phone for a payday. In addition to Holmes, the list includes Gerrie Coetzee, Michael Dokes, George Foreman, Leon Spinks, Tony Tubbs, Mike Weaver, Trevor Berbick, and Tony Tucker. Riddick Bowe hasn't been retired long enough to have come back yet, but wait.

Without question, the greatest comeback in the annals of the sport is Foreman's unprecedented and probably never-to-be-duplicated feat of regaining the heavyweight crown at age 45, and after 10 years of inactivity. Foreman claims he came back for the money to build a youth center in his native Houston. If so, that club is oversubscribed many times.

Is this a recent phenomenon, or did our ring heroes from days gone by do the same thing and refuse to give up the sport despite advanced age and uncooperative reflexes? Some hasty research reveals there has been a relatively small number of attempts at second chances, at least by prominent fighters. Of course, when considering the number of former champions to have returned, you have to remember one simple fact: The proliferation of titles has resulted in a drastic increase in former titlists.

In 1906, James J. Jeffries retired as undefeated heavyweight champion at age 31. He returned after nearly five years of retirement to carry the white man's banner in a racially laced confrontation against Jack Johnson. Although Jeffries was well-paid for that 1910 title fight in Reno, he didn't come back for the money. He was a wealthy rancher.

One who did need the money was Benny Leonard, who was wiped out in the Great Depression of 1929. Leonard, who gave up the lightweight title in 1925, returned in '31 at age 35. He fought every two weeks as a welterweight, and after 19 consecutive wins was knocked out by world champion Jimmy McLarnin in an abortive bid for the title.

Joe Louis couldn't escape the tax man following his first retirement, which lasted two years. Deep in debt, he returned in 1950 to challenge his successor, Ezzard Charles, only to lose a 15-round decision. But the IRS was unrelenting, and Louis fought on for healthy paydays, winning eight more bouts until knocked into permanent retirement by Rocky Marciano.

From 1940 to '46, World War II interrupted Max Schmeling's career. He made a comeback at age 42, winning only three of five matches.

After he quit in 1977, Joe Frazier's reappearance was also brief. At age 33, he came back for one fight. It was a draw, and in 1981, Frazier retired permanently.

Let's hear it, then, for Marciano, Gene Tunney, Michael Spinks, and Marvin Hagler, each of whom turned their backs on any suggestions of unretiring after declaring themselves finished.

A loser only once in his long career, undefeated heavyweight titleholder Tunney hung 'em up after earning a $990,445 purse in his penultimate fight (his rematch vs. Jack Dempsey) and $525,000 in his finale (vs. Tom Heeney). These were tremendous purses for 1928. If that money wasn't enough, Tunney married Polly Lauder, a New York society heiress, after he left the ring. Maybe some of today's comebacking fighters should try that approach.

Marciano loved and hoarded money, but the never-beaten champion had had enough of the game and retired gracefully at age 33 in 1956.

Following his less-than-memorable performance against Mike Tyson in 1988, Spinks, now 40, has resisted all attempts to get him to come back. Of course, he never liked to fight to begin with. Similarly, Hagler, who was a pure warrior, shed his gloves after his disappointing loss to Leonard in 1988. He moved to Italy, became an actor, and has refused all offers for a rematch. Hagler, 43, has been inactive for 10 years.

Two household names who will never come back are Thomas Hearns and Roberto Duran. That's because neither one has ever stopped fighting. (That's if you don't count Duran in New Orleans.) Duran, 46, needs the money. Hearns, 39, is far from impoverished. He just loves to knock people out.

Hell, it beats working for a living. ■

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of April 1997, the WBC as of May 1997, and the IBF as of June 1997.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Akinwande (GB)	1	–	–
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	2	3	7
David Tua (NZ)	3	7	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	4	6	11
Andrew Golota (POL)	5	5	12
Ray Mercer (USA)	6	–	6
Francois Botha (SA)	7	2	4
Corrie Sanders (SA)	8	4	3
John Ruiz (USA)	9	8	–
Brian Nielsen (DEN)	10	–	–
Mike Tyson (USA)	–	1	2
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	9	1
Lee Gilbert (USA)	–	10	10
Obed Sullivan (USA)	16	–	5
Tony Tucker (USA)	–	–	8
Chris Byrd (USA)	15	–	9

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	–	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	5	–
Torsten May (GER)	3	6	6
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	4	2	–
Johnny Nelson (GB)	5	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	6	3	9
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	7	–	3
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	8	–	–
Chris Okoh (GB)	9	–	–
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	10	–	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	1	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	4	1
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	7	–
Dirk Wallijn (BELG)	16	8	–
Ken Murphy (USA)	–	9	5
Valery Vikhor (UKR)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	26	–	4
Faustino Gonzalez (COL)	–	–	7
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	23	11	8
Juan Gomez (CUB)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Montell Griffin (USA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	4
Vacant	–	–	C
Roy Jones (USA)	1	2	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	2	4	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	3	6	7
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	4	–	6
Crawford Ashley (GB)	5	7	5
Merqui Sosa (DR)	6	12	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	7	8	12
Chris Eubank (GB)	8	11	11
Richard Frazier (USA)	9	9	10
Mark Prince (GB)	10	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	1	3
William Guthrie (USA)	–	3	1
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	17	5	–
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	10	2
Ray Berry (USA)	24	–	8
Richard Hall (USA)	–	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Robin Reid (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	1	9	3
Thulane Malinga (SA)	2	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	3	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	4	–	8
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	5	1	6
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	6	–	5
Henry Wharton (GB)	7	8	–
Chris Johnson (CAN)	8	12	–
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	9	4	7
Eric Lucas (CAN)	10	–	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	14	2	1
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	15	3	4
Leif Keiski (SWE)	30	5	–
Robert Coehlo (BRA)	–	6	10
Gary Ballard (SA)	16	7	2
Tim Littles (USA)	–	10	–
Willie Monroe (USA)	–	–	9

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	1	8	6
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	2	11	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	3	–	5
Paul Vaden (USA)	4	4	3
Julian Jackson (USA)	5	5	–
Richie Woodhall (GB)	6	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	7	–	–
Glen Johnson (USA)	8	3	11
Brian Barbosa (USA)	9	6	7
Glenn Catley (GB)	10	12	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	21	1	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	19	2	–
Robert Allen (USA)	13	7	8
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	15	9	–
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	22	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Lloyd Bryan (USA)	28	–	4
Rogerio Cacciatore (BRA)	24	–	9
Alex Zaitzev (RUS)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	C
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	1	7	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	2	–	–
David Ciarlante (ITA)	3	2	–
Said Bennajem (FRA)	4	–	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	5	6	–
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	6	–	–
Faouzi Hattab (FRA)	7	–	–
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	8	–	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	9	1	3
Chang Taek Kim (KOR)	10	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	3	–
Tony Menefee (USA)	–	4	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	5	–
Alejandro Ugueto (VEN)	–	8	–
Stephen Martinez (USA)	–	9	–
Jason Rarere (NZ)	–	10	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Jason Papillion (USA)	22	–	4
Mark Breland (USA)	–	–	5
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	–	6
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	–	–	7
Adrian Dodson (GB)	18	–	8
Ryan Rhodes (GB)	20	–	9
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	3	1
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	2	2	3
Derrell Coley (USA)	3	4	7
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	10	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	5	1	–
Ariel Chaves (ARG)	6	–	–
David Kamau (KEN)	7	–	–
Robert West (USA)	8	–	–
Suk Hyun Yun (KOR)	9	–	–
Walter Saporiti (ARG)	10	–	10
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	5	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	6	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	12	7	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	21	8	–
Romallis Ellis (USA)	–	9	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	2
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	4
Hitonon Sato (JAP)	–	–	5
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	6
Juan Negron (PR)	–	–	8
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–

Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	C	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	1	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	2	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	3	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	4	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	5	4	2
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	6	–	–
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	7	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	8	–	9
Reggie Green (USA)	9	–	–
Ray Oliveira (USA)	10	8	–
Jose Barbosa (VEN)	–	3	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	5	3
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	11	6	–
Viacheslav Yanovsky (KAZ)	–	7	–
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	9	6
Bisao Arai (JAP)	–	10	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	1
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	4
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	5
Vernon Forrest (USA)	–	–	7
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	8
Freddy Rojas (CHILE)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	–	C
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	1	–	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	2	4	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	3	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	4	2	–
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	5	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	6	–	–
Jimmy Rangel (COL)	7	–	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	8	–	4
Marco Rudolph (GER)	9	–	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	10	6	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	1	8
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	16	3	2
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	13	5	11
Angel Mona (FRA)	23	7	–
Samir Cherrad (FRA)	19	8	–
Ivan Robinson (USA)	–	9	3
Ceppy Holman (INDO)	–	10	–
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	–	–	1
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	5
Luis Flores (COL)	24	–	6
Pete Taliaferro (USA)	–	–	7
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	–	9
Wilson Palacio (COL)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	C	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	C
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	1	1	11
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	2	–	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	3	5	1
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	4	–	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	5	7	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	6	–	10
Douglas Villarreal (COL)	7	6	–
Jorge Paez (MEX)	8	–	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	9	–	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	10	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	2	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	3	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	–
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	8	–
Koji Matsumoto (JAP)	–	9	–
Raul Franco (MEX)	–	10	–
Harold Warren (USA)	17	–	2
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	4
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	5
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	6
Barry Jones (GB)	–	–	7
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	–	–	8
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	–	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	C	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	11	–	C
Carlos Rios (ARG)	1	1	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	3	9	3
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	4	–	–
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	5	–	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	6	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	7	–	–
Koji Matsumoto (JAP)	8	–	–
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	9	8	4
Jose Noyola (MEX)	10	–	–
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	2	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	3	5
Frederic Perez (FRA)	21	4	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	5	–
Hector Arroyo (PR)	–	6	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	22	7	7
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	–	10	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	–	6
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	8
Edward Barrios (COL)	–	–	9
Luis Freitas (BRA)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Erik Morales (MEX)	1	2	9
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	2	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	3	–	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	4	3	8
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	5	–	–
Enrique Jupiter (MEX)	6	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	7	–	–
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	8	–	–
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	9	–	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	10	–	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	1	–
Martin Krastev (BUL)	18	4	–
Serge Poilbian (FRA)	13	5	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	6	–
Angel Chacon (PR)	–	7	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	8	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	9	–
Enrique Angeles (MEX)	–	10	–
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	2
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	3
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	4
Spencer Oliver (GB)	14	–	5
Rey Jamili (PHIL)	–	–	6
Valdir Matias (BRA)	–	–	7
Pablo Osuna (COL)	27	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Siromongkol Singmanasuk (THAI)	C	–	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	2	5	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	3	–	–
In Jin Chi (KOR)	4	–	–
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	5	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	6	10	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	7	–	6
Setsuo Kawamasu (JAP)	8	11	–
Shaszi Nitta (JAP)	9	–	7
Adan Vargas (MEX)	10	–	8
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	3	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	4	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	6	1
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	–	7	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	11	8	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	19	9	–
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	25	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	20	–	3
Wilson Alcorro (COL)	–	–	4
John Michael Johnson (USA)	12	–	5
Fernando Montilla (PHIL)	–	–	9
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	10

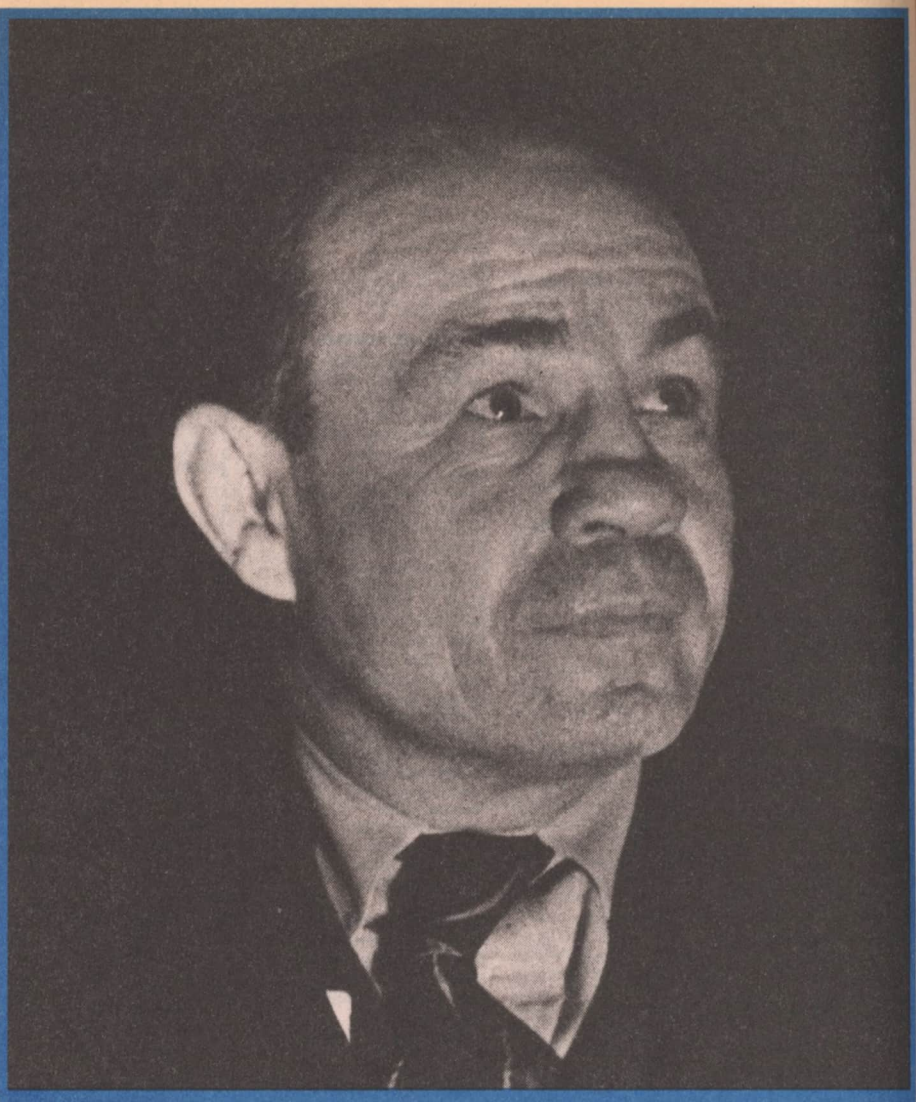
JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	C	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	C
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	7	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	2	6	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	3	–	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	4	–	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	5	–	9
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	6	3	–
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	7	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	8	–	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	9	–	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	10	–	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	1	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	2	8
Andy Agosto (PR)	14	4	4
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	5	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	8	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	9	–
Edicson Torres (VEN)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	16	11	3
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	6
Jaji Sibali (SA)	27	–	7
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Chatchai Dutchboy-Gym (THAI)	IC	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	12	–	C
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	2	10	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	3	5	8
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	4	4	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	5	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	6	–	–
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	7	–	–
Peter Culshaw (GB)	8	9	–
Arthur Johnson (USA)	9	7	9
Raul Juarez (MEX)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	1	2
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	29	3	–
Takashi Ohba (JAP)	26	6	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	8	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Ilido Julio (COL)	23	–	4
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	5
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Will Grigsby (USA)	28	–	7
Vuyani Nene (SA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Pichitnol C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	1	–	12
Yosam Choi (KOR)	2	9	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	–	8
Kaaj Chartbandi (THAI)	4	–	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	5	–	11
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	6	8	–
Mzukuzi Marali (SA)	7	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	8	11	10
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	9	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	10	–	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	–	2	–
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	3	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	–	4	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	5	3
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	6	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	14	7	–
Sang Chul Lee (KOR)	–	10	–
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	1
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	2
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	4
Nelson Dieppa (PR)	–	–	5
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	12	6
Takashi Shiohama (JAP)	–	–	7
Juan Cordoba (ARG)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	C
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	1	–
Sinn Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	2	–	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	–	5
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	4	8	2
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	5	–	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	6	–	–
Lindi Memani (SA)	7	–	–
Carmelo Caceres (PHIL)	8	–	9
Sang Chul Lee (KOR)	9	–	–
Juan Herrera (COL)	10	–	6
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Kwanjai Battery (THAI)	–	3	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	4	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	5	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	6	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	7	–
Gabriel Martinez (MEX)	–	9	–
Fah Sung Ponasawang (THAI)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	–	3
Wondee Charoen (THAI)	–	12	4
Wellington Vicente (BRA)	–	–	7
Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)	22	–	8
Carlos Eluaiza (ARG)	–	–	10

CLASSIC



BIG LITTLE GUY

From THE RING, January 1953

By Jersey Jones

At 65, an age at which most men who've known active, successful careers in business are thinking of retiring to less strenuous pursuits, little Charley Goldman continues to function as one of the busiest trainers in this rugged boxing trade.

You'd imagine that Goldman would have gone off on a well-earned vacation after Rocky Marciano blasted his way to the world heavyweight title. But not Charley. Two days after the Philadelphia episode, he was back in New York, resuming his normal chores at Stillman's gym and the Catholic Youth Association.

"What would I do with a vacation?" he

grins. "A rest probably would ruin me. Boxing is more than a business to me. It's my pleasure and relaxation, too. I'm sort of lost without it. Some years ago I thought I might like to get away from it and try something else. I got myself interested in a roadhouse near Newburgh, New York, and did all right with it, but I wasn't too happy. I had to get back to boxing. It gets into your blood and there you are."

Aside from a couple of mementos of his own fighting career—a slightly bashed-in nose and a left ear toting traces of what he calls "a cauliflower"—there is little about Goldman to suggest a half-century of industrious association with the boisterous prize fighting profession. Charley is a pleasant, mild-mannered, soft-spoken little fellow who looks as though he'd be more in his element running a corner newsstand or a neighborhood delicatessen.

And he certainly doesn't look 65. Anyone meeting him for the first time probably wouldn't guess his age to be more than 50, if that. He may have become a bit chubbier and his hair somewhat thinner, but in his physical appearance he has changed little since he and Al Weill teamed up and began operations as a trainer-manager combination more than three decades ago. Charley's only major concession to the passing years has been to wear eyeglasses.

***

There probably is no member of the profession more popular with his fellow workers than Goldman. In all the years we've known him, we've never heard him say anything against anybody, and he's been ever-ready and willing to lend a helping hand to the other fellow.

To the boxing populace, Goldman may not be as well-known as some of the other leading trainers. That's because he is not publicity-minded. Modest and unassuming, Charley does not push himself into the limelight. He is content to go along with the even tenor of his way, doing his work effectively but quietly.

In the art of teaching and conditioning fighters, Goldman has few equals and no superiors. His record speaks fluently enough for his exceptional talents. To him has been due much of the credit for the developing into world champions of four Al Weill entries—featherweight Joey Archibald, lightweight Lou Ambers, welterweight Marty Servo, and heavyweight Rocky Marciano.

Trainer Goldman and manager Al Weill (center) have teamed to guide several fighters, none of whom are more successful than undefeated heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano.

Though his reputation as a trainer has been established mainly by his success with Weill's fighters, Charley hasn't worked exclusively for and with Al. Through the years he has been constantly in demand by other managers, and a complete list of headline ringmen he has handled would read pretty much like a batch of pages out of *Who's Who In Boxing*.

Unless he happens to be out of town with a fighter, Goldman's daily New York routine seldom varies. He does a double-shift, putting in his early-afternoon hours at Stillman's with the established professionals, then hopping along to the CYO gym on West 17th Street for later sessions with his juveniles—kids still in the amateurs or just beginning their pro careers.

***

How many fighters is Goldman currently handling?

"Gosh, I don't know," he says. "I never count them. Fighters come and go. There aren't so many these days. Kids just don't seem to go in for boxing like they used to. Too much competition in other fields. I'm probably handling 10 or 12 fighters now, and they keep me busy. But I like it. The part I like best is starting from the beginning with a green kid and watching him develop. Of course, all new kids don't make good. Some of them never get beyond the preliminary class. But that's what makes this business so fascinating. It's the gamble. You never know if you've got future champions.

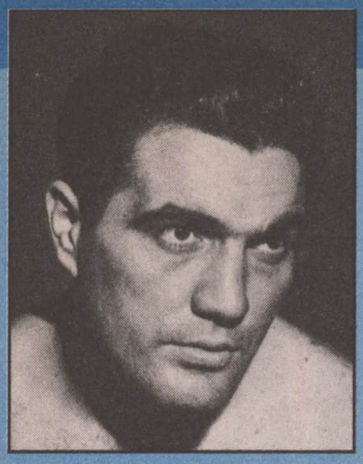
"But I've been pretty lucky. I can usually tell the first time a boy puts up his hands if he is worth bothering with, and if I think his chances aren't very good, I tell him so. No sense wasting his time as well as mine. But when I see one who looks like he has the stuff and is worth going along with, I don't mind how much time and work I put in with him.

"Take Marciano, for instance. I've handled some mighty fine boys since I've been a trainer, but I don't remember anybody easier to get along with than Rocky. Personally, he's a wonderful fellow, and I enjoy working with him. Rocky is like an enthusiastic kid, and appreciates everything that is done for him. He makes a trainer's job simple."

When Goldman is out of town with one fighter, what becomes of his other charges? Who looks after their training sessions in the gym and seconds them in their fights?

"I turn them over to other trainers," says Charley. "We have a fine crowd at Stillman's—Whitey Bimstein, Jimmy August, Dan and Nick Florio, Teddy Bentham, Chickie Ferrara, and Freddie Brown—and everybody works together. Sometimes I take care of their fighters when they're away, and they return the

THE RING RATINGS, *January 1953*



Joey Maxim

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Rocky Marciano (USA)
1. **Jersey Joe Walcott** (USA)
2. **Rex Layne** (USA)
3. **Ezzard Charles** (USA)
4. **Bob Dunlop** (USA)
5. **Clarence Henry** (USA)
6. **Johnny Williams** (England)
7. **Roland LaStarza** (USA)
8. **Heinz Neuhaus** (Germany)
9. **Karel Sys** (Belgium)
10. **Jimmy Bivins** (USA)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Joey Maxim (USA)
1. **Archie Moore** (USA)
2. **Harold Johnson** (USA)
3. **Harry Matthews** (USA)
4. **Yolande Pompee** (British West Indies)
5. **Jake LaMotta** (USA)
6. **Danny Nardico** (USA)
7. **Jimmy Slade** (USA)
8. **Randy Turpin** (England)
9. **Rocky Jones** (USA)
10. **Tommy Harrison** (USA)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Ray Robinson (USA)
1. **Randy Turpin** (England)
2. **Charley Humez** (France)
3. **Carl (Bobo) Olson** (Hawaii)
4. **Ernie Durando** (USA)
5. **Rocky Castellani** (USA)
6. **Lee Sala** (USA)
7. **Norman Hayes** (USA)
8. **George Angelo** (South Africa)
9. **Joey Giardello** (USA)
10. **Mickey Laurent** (France)

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Kid Gavilan (Cuba)
1. **Johnny Bratton** (USA)
2. **Bobby Dykes** (USA)
3. **Joe Miceli** (USA)
4. **Gil Turner** (USA)
5. **Chuck Davey** (USA)
6. **Billy Graham** (USA)
7. **Johnny Saxton** (USA)
8. **Cliff Curvis** (England)
9. **Art Aragon** (USA)
10. **Danny Womber** (USA)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ:
James Carter (USA)
1. **Lauro Salas** (Mexico)
2. **Johnny Gonsalves** (USA)
3. **George Araujo** (USA)
4. **Arthur King** (Canada)
5. **Jorgen Johansen** (Denmark)
6. **Frank Johnson** (England)
7. **Joey Brown** (USA)
8. **Virgil Akins** (USA)
9. **Georgie Dunn** (Canada)
10. **Eddie Chavez** (USA)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Sandy Saddler (USA)
1. **Ray Famechon** (France)
2. **Tommy Collins** (USA)
3. **Willie Pep** (USA)
4. **Luis Romero** (Spain)
5. **Glen Flanagan** (USA)
6. **Percy Bassett** (USA)
7. **Red Top Davis** (USA)
8. **Gene Smith** (USA)
9. **Charley Riley** (USA)
10. **Roy Ankarah** (Gold Coast)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Jimmy Carruthers (South Africa)
1. **Vic Toweel** (South Africa)
2. **Maurice Sandeyron** (France)
3. **Jean Sneyers** (Belgium)
4. **Puppy Garcia** (Cuba)
5. **Gianni Zuddas** (Italy)
6. **Gaetano Annaloro** (Italy)
7. **Peter Keenan** (Scotland)
8. **Frankie Williams** (England)
9. **Pappy Gault** (USA)
10. **Andre Valignat** (France)

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ:
Yoshio Shirai (Japan)
1. **Dado Marino** (Hawaii)
2. **Jake Tuli** (South Africa)
3. **Terry Allen** (England)
4. **Joe Cairney** (Scotland)
5. **Vic Herman** (Scotland)
6. **Teddy Gardner** (England)
7. **Jimmy Pearce** (England)
8. **Tanny Campo** (Philippines)
9. **Louis Skena** (France)
10. **Nazzareno Gianelli** (Italy)

favors when I'm out of town. It's the same thing at the CYO, where Pete Mello and Artie Rodenbach are always ready to help out."

***

Aside from his professional achievements, Goldman has become distinctive for another reason. During the winter months, from December to March, he is one of that fast-vanishing species of American male—a derby-wearer.

"No, you don't see many 'iron hats' these days, especially in boxing," says Charley. "Since Jimmy Johnston died, I guess I'm the only one around who uses a derby. But I've worn one so long, I'd feel undressed without it."

The habit started early in Charley's career. Born in Russia, he was reared in the rugged Red Hook section of Brooklyn, where Terry McGovern held forth, and as a kid still in school, Charley became a sort of mascot for the Terrible One.

McGovern was Goldman's idol, and it was only natural that Charley would try to emulate Terry in everything the latter did. When McGovern, in the popular style of the Gay '90s, parted his hair in the middle, slicked down on both sides, and strutted around with a derby cocked jauntily on his head, Charley proceeded to do likewise.

It was also natural that Goldman would develop a pugnacious streak, and before he reached his teens, he had become top man among the kids in his neighborhood.

Charley became so proficient with his fists that in 1904, when he was not yet 16, he decided to try his luck in the professional ring.

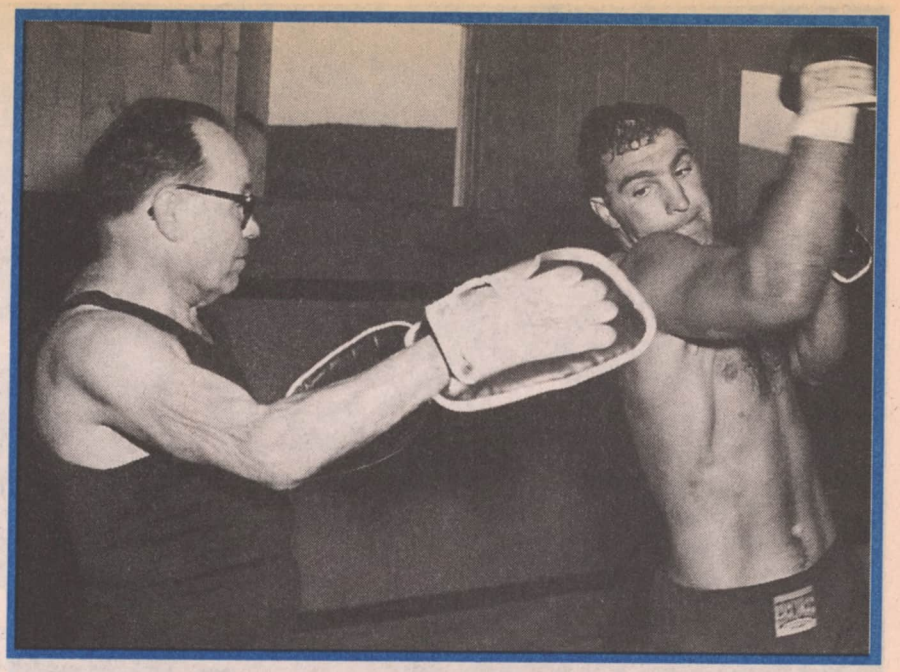
***

Those were the days of the "Both-Members-Of-This-Club" interlude between

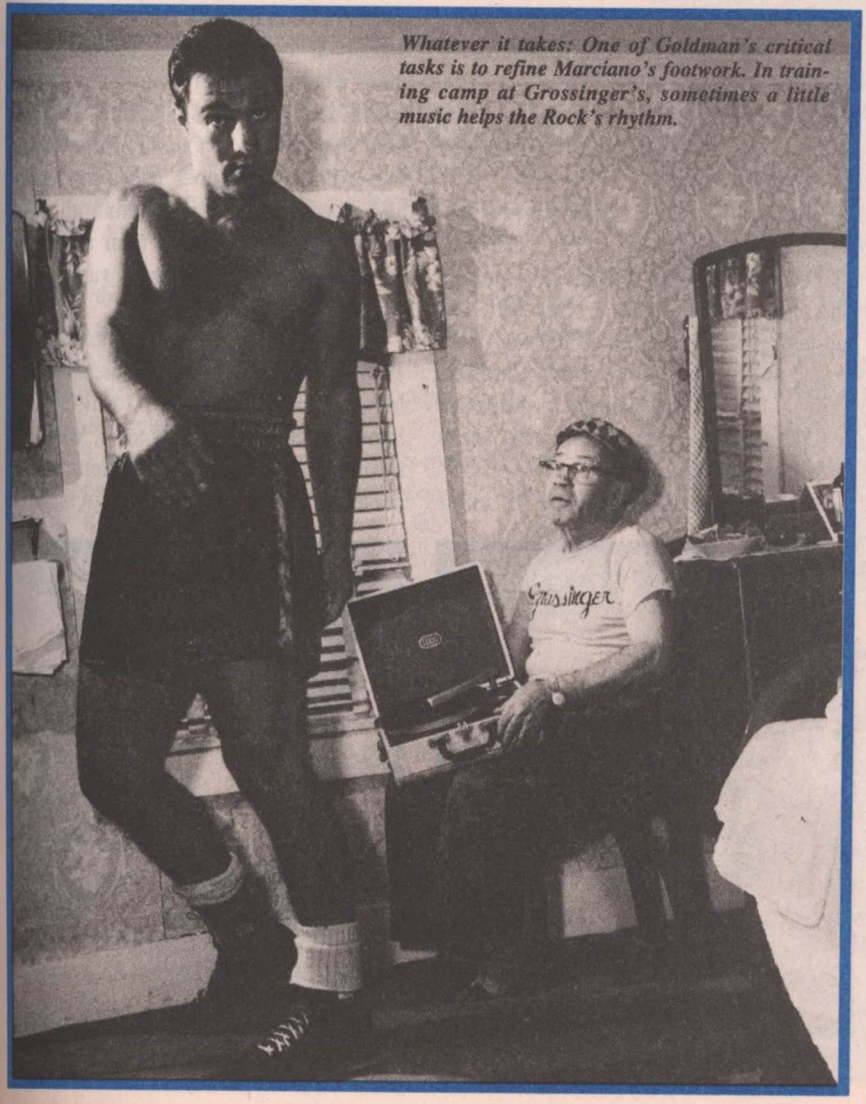
the Horton and Frawley laws in New York. Boxing not being legalized, promoters staged shows on a "club membership" basis. Instead of admissions, the public paid dues. The fighters, of course, were also "members."

Even with this subterfuge, however, there were frequent tangles with the forces of law and order, and Goldman had his share of exciting adventures with the police. The most memorable was in his first year of fighting, when he figured in one of the longest bantam battles of record.

Goldman then scaled 105 pounds. His opponent was Eddie Gardner, from a rival neighborhood. The scrap was held in a room adjoining the rear of a saloon in South Brooklyn. Fans were conducted to the scene one at a time to avoid any suspicion that might have been aroused by a crowd congregating in the vicinity. The bout was scheduled "to a finish" for a $500 side bet and a percentage of the receipts.



Goldman is credited with developing Marciano, who was a crude slugger before honing his skills. "He makes a trainer's job simple," Goldman says of his prize pupil.



Whatever it takes: One of Goldman's critical tasks is to refine Marciano's footwork. In training camp at Grossinger's, sometimes a little music helps the Rock's rhythm.

Despite the hush-hushness of the proceedings, the police got wind of the affair, and during the 42nd round, they raided the joint. The referee, Shorty McDonald, a New York sportswriter, hastily called the fight a draw, and everybody scrambled for the exits. In the confusion, Goldman escaped, but to this day he doesn't know what happened to a) the promoter, b) the receipts, or c) the side bet.

***

Goldman never attained the status of world champion, but during an active career, which lasted nearly 15 years, he estimates that he must have fought about 400 battles, and he missed very few of the top bantams and feathers of the era. Among the many with whom he tangled were Harry Forbes, Johnny Coulon, Patsy Kline, Johnny Solsberg, Young Britt, Benny Franklin, Terry Edwards, Kid Black, Charley Harvey, Eddie Sherman, Kid Williams, Frankie Burns, Patsy Brannigan, George (K.O.) Chaney, Benny Kaufman, Phil McGovern, Dutch Brandt, Battling Lahn, Tommy Houck, Joe Wagner, Willie Jones, Packey Hommey, and Frankie Callahan.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of Goldman's busy ring career was Charley's role in the most prolific "feud" boxing probably has known. He and Georgie Kitson, another Brooklynite, fought so often that Charley has long since lost count of the exact total, but he guesses it was somewhere

Marciano isn't the only champion Goldman has handled. Lightweight Lou Ambers (left) and welterweight Marty Servo, both of whom were managed by Weill, also reached the top.

around the 60 mark. During one stretch, the rivals hooked up on 12 successive nights (Sunday excluded) in New York and Brooklyn rings.

"I don't know how many rounds we fought in all," says Charley. "There were six 15-rounders in the lot. The rest ranged anywhere from four to 10 rounds. One night we boxed twice. We opened the show at George (Elbows) McFadden's club on 135th Street, then rushed downtown and boxed the windup at the Summit A.C. on 13th Street."

In the entire series, only one bout produced an official winner, Goldman grabbing a 15-round decision in Charleston, South Carolina. The rivals fought about 20 draws in various parts of the country, and the rest of the scraps were no-decision affairs.

***

What does Goldman consider his hardest fight?

"It wasn't any with Kitson," Charley tells you. "Georgie and I got so used to each other that we could fight all night with nobody getting hurt. I don't know just what bout I would call my hardest. I had a lot of tough ones. Once I went 15 rounds in Baltimore with that murderous-punching southpaw, George (K.O.) Chaney. How that guy could sock! Yet I don't think I'd call that my hardest fight.

"The opponent I probably had the most trouble with was Tommy Houck. We fought twice, first at Jess McMahon's Olympia in Harlem, then at the Knickerbocker Club in Albany, and believe me, I had to fight for my life each time."

Boxing represented no shortcut to sudden wealth in those days.

"It was a tough business," muses Charley. "I fought many a scrap for $100 and less. Once, I traveled all the way from New York to Charleston, South Carolina, for a 15-rounder that paid me a guarantee of $125. Shucks, a preliminary kid picks up that much money now.

"But," and Goldman grins, "a dollar was a dollar then, and it covered a lot more territory than a sawbuck [$10] does today."

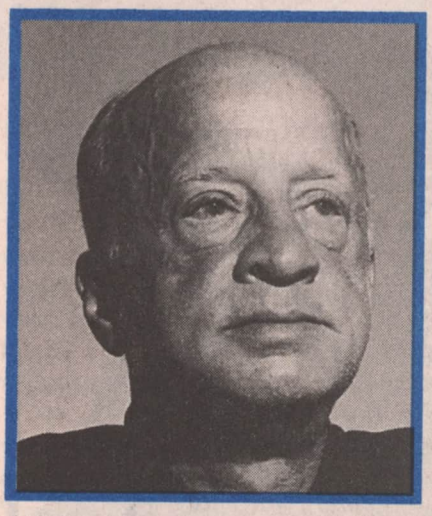
Goldman was managed by the late Jack (Three-Fingered) Dougherty, whose advice to a fighter between rounds usually was brief and to the point: "Quit fiddlin' around; g'wan in and knock the bum out."

***

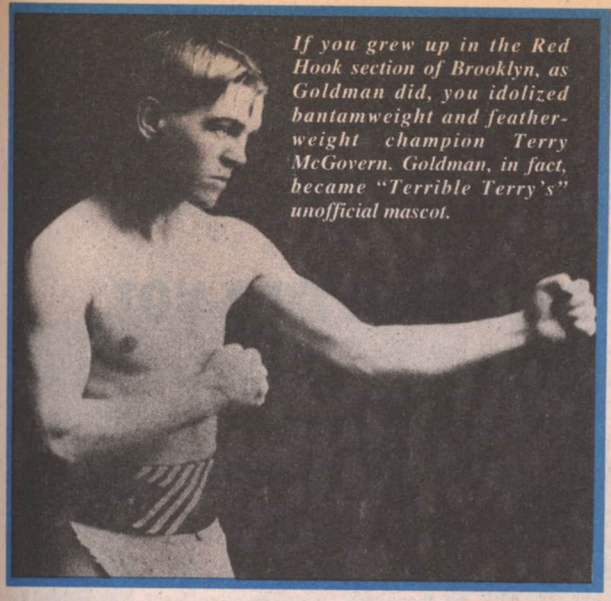
His own fighting career behind him, Goldman turned to managing and training, and when the Walker Law brought professional boxing back to New York in 1920, he joined forces with Weill. It was an ideal combination. The shrewd Weill hustled the promoters, booked dates for the stable, and handled the business end of the organization, while Goldman took charge of the fighters in the gym and in the ring.

For five years the firm of Weill and Goldman functioned smoothly. Then, in 1925, Charley thought he'd like to try his luck at something less strenuous and he moved to Newburgh to take over a popular tavern at Orange Park. But he couldn't get entirely away from boxing. Every now and then, when Weill felt one of his fighters could use a few lessons from Goldman, he'd ship the kid to Charley for a week or two. And several times, when his fighters had important matches coming up, Weill arranged for them to do their training in Newburgh, with Goldman supervising activities.

Charlie officially returned to boxing in 1937, when Weill became matchmaker for Mike Jacobs and the 20th Century Sporting Club. As matchmaker, Weill was not supposed to handle fighters, and he persuaded Goldman to dispose of his inter-



At Stillman's gym, trainers regularly help each other. When the New York-based Goldman hits the road, he entrusts his fighters to world-class trainers like Whitey Bimstein (left) and Dan Florio.



If you grew up in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn, as Goldman did, you idolized bantamweight and featherweight champion Terry McGovern. Goldman, in fact, became "Terrible Terry's" unofficial mascot.

est in the upstate roadhouse, come back to New York, and act as a manager, as well as trainer, for his extensive troupe.

***

What, if any, is the secret of Goldman's success as coach and trainer?

"There's no secret," Charley insists with typical modesty. "It's mostly a combination of luck and common sense."

As simple as that—just luck and common sense?

"Sure," he says. "Luck in getting hold of the right material, and common sense in trying to develop it properly. It helps, of course, if the trainer has been a fighter himself. It makes it that much easier to understand the problems of the boys he is handling.

"To say that a trainer actually develops a boxer is bunk. Sure, he can help to bring out the best in a fighter, but if the boy hasn't the natural ability to start with, and the willingness to stick to business and work hard, all the teaching and training in the world won't do much good.

"There's one serious mistake some trainers make. They try to change a boy's style. It doesn't pay to meddle around with a natural style. If a kid is inclined to be a boxer, don't try to make a slugger of him. And vice versa. You can improve on what he has, but don't change it. I've seen many a great prospect ruined because somebody tried to make him something he wasn't cut out to be.

"Some fighters have unusual styles to start with. What you'd call unorthodox. Like Harry Greb, Memphis Pal Moore, and Maxie Rosenbloom. They became great fighters because nobody tinkered with their natural styles, and they were allowed to develop normally.

"Lou Ambers was another with an unusual style. When Lou was just a kid, and Weill first became interested in him, Al sent him to me several times at Newburgh, and asked me to look after him. I didn't make an effort to change Ambers' style. Instead, I concentrated on improving it, and with time and experience you know what a great fighter Lou turned out to be.

"The only advice I could offer young trainers is: Know your job first, then use a little common sense in handling it." ■

THE RING, January 1953

The Cover: Look who's reading THE RING. Heavyweight Rex Layne, a 24-year-old contender from Utah, has victories over Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Walcott, but can't seem to secure a shot at the world title. Layne is drawn by frequent contributor Chris Schaare.

Quickie Kayo: A ringside report details clever boxer Jimmy Carruthers' first-round kayo of defending bantamweight titlist Vic Toweel in South Africa. The 23-year-old Carruthers, a product of the docks of Sydney, Australia, won the crown in a division-record 139 seconds.

Sugar's Decision: Barney Nagler details the dilemma of middleweight king Sugar Ray Robinson, who can't decide between continuing his ring wars or launching a career as a song-and-dance man. The conclusion: If Robinson can make enough money by fighting, he'll keep punching.

Early-Rounders: In analyzing title fight knockouts, famed boxing writer Wilbur Wood is surprised to conclude that the early rounds produce not only the most kayos, but the most sensational ones as well. Examples he sites are Jack Dempsey KO 2 Luis Firpo and Joe Louis KO 1 Max Schmeling (pictured).

Fighter Of The Month: Newly crowned bantamweight boss Jimmy Carruthers receives the honor for his first-round kayo of Vic Toweel. Among the runners-up: former heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles, who defeated Bernie Reynolds and Cesar Brion, and light heavyweight Tommy Harrison, who beat Jimmy Bivins and Charley Norkus, but lost a questionable decision to Roland LaStarza.

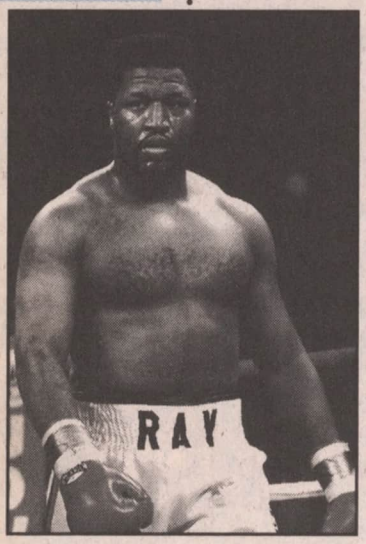
LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

REALITY BITES, BUT GOLOTA BETTER NOT

If Andrew Golota is planning to knock out Ray Mercer when the heavyweights clash on August 16 in Atlantic City, he's every bit as dumb as he appeared to be during his ill-fated battles with Riddick Bowe. As Mercer has proved against big bangers like Tommy Morrison, Lennox Lewis, and Tim Witherspoon, his chin is of Mount Rushmore quality. But when facing Golota, it's not necessarily your chin that should be your first concern.

"I don't even have balls when I get in the ring," Mercer told THE RING. "They're up by my chest. I've never been hurt by low blows, even in the gym."



Mercer: "I'm nobody's meal"

Mercer doesn't expect Golota to punch downstairs early in the fight. "But once he gets hurt, I do believe he'll resort to low blows and cheating," he said. "I have no idea why he does it, but it won't bother me, and I won't use it as an excuse. If he *bites* me, then there's gonna be a *real* fight. *Nobody* bites Ray Mercer."

Given Golota's history, it's tough to overlook the potential for biting, butting, kneeing, low punching, and who knows what else. Regardless, Mercer-Golota should be a doozy. Both are strong, bruising heavyweights, and both are desperate for a win.

"You have to look at the winner as a guy who can beat anybody," said Lou DiBella, vice president of HBO Sports, which will televise the bout. "It's more important for Golota because a loss or a DQ and it's basically the end of the line. As for Mercer, every fight at this point of his career is a crossroads fight."

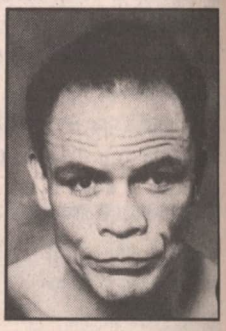
When Mercer turned pro after winning a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics, insiders pointed to his age (27) and said he'd have to advance rapidly. Well, he's now 36, and while winning only one of his last four bouts, he's never fought better.

"I can't really explain it, other than to credit my trainer, Tommy Parks, who's a real teacher," Mercer said. "I guess I'm just coming into my prime. My body tells me when to worry about my age. I started late and I don't have a lot of wear and tear on me."

If he can say the same after brawling with Golota, let's send his chin to Canastota—and a couple of other body parts, too.

LISTEN UP

Will "The Mouse" roar in early-September, when WBC super bantamweight champion **Daniel Zaragoza** defends against countryman and mandatory challenger **Erik Morales?** This looks like the end of the Mexican's reign. Then again, we said that before his last fight, and the one before that, and the one before that, too. Underneath Zaragoza-Morales, 1996 Olympian and unbeaten junior lightweight **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** will jump up in class by taking on rugged but cut-prone veteran **Troy Dorsey** ... **Pernell Whitaker** doesn't need **Oscar De La Hoya**. There's talk of Whitaker challenging either WBA welterweight champion **Ike Quartey** or WBC super welterweight titlist **Terry Norris**, should "Terrible Terry" succeed in freeing himself from promoter **Don King**.



Zaragoza: Are there any miracles left?

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Andrew Golota	Ray Mercer	2-1	Huge fight for the winner
Daniel Zaragoza	Erik Morales	Pick-'em	Great old fighter vs. great young fighter
George Foreman	Corrie Sanders	9-5	Foreman continues to amaze
Robin Reid	Sugarboy Malinga	2-1	Reid is better than I thought
Vince Phillips	Fred Pendleton	5-1	Easy fight for Phillips
Vince Phillips	Kostya Tszyu	Pick-'em	Tszyu better learn to block a right cross

Las Vegas Hilton

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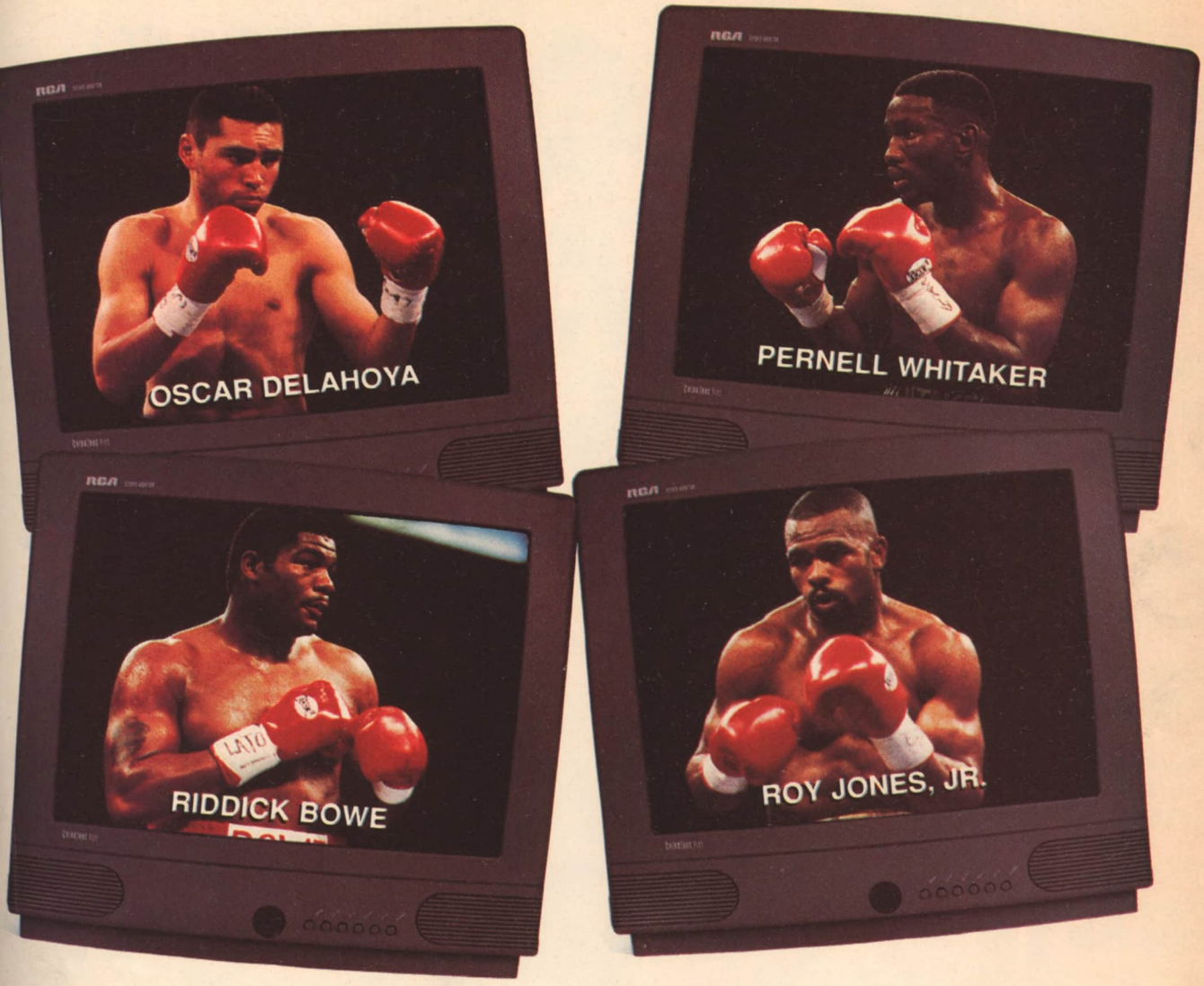

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